



NEWSLETTER

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STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM 2021

26th February	Jane Brook	Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority
26th March	Christine Graham	Experiences of a Rep in retail & wholesale nurseries.
23rd April	Glenn Williams	Significant Trees and Treenet.
Friday 30th April	Coach Trip	Willunga and environs
28th May	Paul DiPuglia	Neutrog
25th June	AGM	Subs due

BRING SAMPLES OF RUBBISH FOR RECYCLING

Our guest speaker for February, Jane Brook from the Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority, has asked if members could bring along the bits of waste that puzzle us as to which bin they belong in.



PASSENGER DROP OFF AT STRATH NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

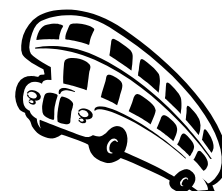
The drop off circle at the front of the hall at the Strath Neighbourhood Centre can be used on meeting days to deliver passengers and baggage if nearby parking is not available when you arrive. Take care entering and departing.

MEMBER PROFILES INVITED

we are inviting members to share their gardening story in our newsletter. Information you might include: Who got you interested in gardening? What gardens have you worked in? What plants do you like to grow? Who has influenced the way that you garden? What wisdom and advice would you like to share from your gardening experience? What do you still want to achieve in your garden? Janet Jones is interested to hear from you. Phone 0497 547 283

COACH TRIP FRIDAY 30TH APRIL

A Rufus Coach has been booked for Friday 30th April to take Garden Club members to visit three gardens belonging to Willunga Garden Club members. Stops at **Jungle in Willunga** and the **McLaren Vale Nursery** and **Studio 180** will be scheduled and the day will include a lunch stop and morning tea.



More details as they are confirmed but payments made for the cancelled Christmas Lunch can be transferred as payment for the Coach Trip.

Put the date in your diary and add your name to the 'INTERESTED IN ATTENDING' list.

TFL KI TREE GROWING PROJECT

Email conversations between our Strathalbyn Garden Club's Penny Fairweather and Vicki-Jo Russell Revegetation Services Manager from Trees for Life.

Hi Penny

Yes it's been a busy start too and I am on some pre-booked leave to write a report for the environment department. It was such a relief though when 2020 finally ended it seemed to last 18 months.

The later seedlings, winter spring species, aren't due back to us until the summer ones are which is 12-16 April.

I'm sorry the results were a bit disappointing, those mid-year propagating species are always a bit trickier and we tend to get the Nursery to grow most of those because they have the experience and facilities but every seedling your group has grown counts. I am not sure how many of the seeds were collected pre vs post fire but there is no doubt that post fire will affect the amount of seed held on trees and the % of viability, but we will have to work with what we have for KI as it was so devastated.

We are happy to provide hard tubes for future growing orders, they are available to purchase at cost so next tree scheme order we can build that in – its \$5.50 per box.

There doesn't seem to be an end in site for this kind of work with landholders from both Avenue Range (south east) and Cherry Gardens already asking what support will be available so I hope we can continue to work together on this.

Did any members of your group attend a propagation workshop? You are welcome to send a few members each year you order, we also have video instructions available to assist. I know you are an experienced gardening group but it's good to go through the process.

Best wishes

Vicki-Jo

Greetings Growers,

I am so happy to be able to update you on our seedlings and the future for them. As you can see from Vicki Jo's email they are still desperate for growers and I know we will continue to support this effort for a time to come. I know a lot of us have had a poor success rate in getting our seedlings up and she has provided possible reasons for this. So at this stage keep on doing what you are doing – as she said every tree counts!

I have also spoken to her about the difficulty many of us had with the soft sided tubes so I think paying extra for the hard tubes is the go in the future and we will do that. Note the invitation to attend propagation workshops and if anyone is interested I will find out dates these are run. I think they are 1 day courses but may be good for a confidence boost for those who are new to growing for Trees for Life or any propagating for that matter.

Best wishes

Penny

Trees for Life Growers Workshop dates will be announced in June 2021.

IF you need help with caring for your boxes of seedlings let Penny know phone 0402 152 984

More growers will be needed for the Autumn batches of seeds so if you have the time, space and the inclination leave your details with Penny.

We could investigate the opportunity of having the video instructions to show here in Strathalbyn.



**There's no place
like home**



SHEEP MANURE FOR SALE

\$5/ bag

\$20 collected in a trailer (6X4)

Tania & John Richardson

Woodchester

Phone John: 0429138783

We're happy to make your garden happy!

Spread the word.

Delivery available!



COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$9.00 per 27 litre bag

Free delivery in Strathalbyn

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Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628



PARKER AVENUE COMMUNITY GARDEN

A Garden is Always a Work In Progress.



OUT IN THE GARDEN

The two large raised garden beds kindly donated by Ced and Carolyn Huxter are being prepared to grow winter vegetables. A layer of foam boxes was used in the bottom of each bed then topped with hay followed by a mix of soil and compost and various manures. Watered with weed tea and worm wee, covered with a mulch of hay and allowed to settle they should be ready for planting by early autumn.

Smaller raised beds have been donated and once our new pergola is installed we will be able to put them in place.

Approval has been given by the Alexandrina Council to build the large pergola which has been financed by a grant from Volunteering SA and is being supplied by Softwoods.

We will be looking for volunteers to assist with the construction as it is being delivered in kit form. Younger, stronger volunteers may be needed for the task so if you have such friends or family members who may be inclined to help please prepare them to be asked!

POTATOES IN HAY BALES

The few plants which were growing in the hay bales were harvested so the hay could be used in the raised beds. Although only a handful of small potatoes resulted from the experiment, if allowed a longer growing period the harvest would have been quite productive judging by the healthy roots on the plants.

CUTTING POTTING DAY. Wednesday 3rd March 9.00am

Penny Fairweather has generously offered cuttings from her extensive garden so we have planned a potting up morning on Wednesday 3rd March.

The cuttings will be brought to the Community Garden where supplies of potting soil, pots and cups of tea/coffee will be ready for many hands to prepare the slips and pot them to grow-on for sale. BYO secateurs and gloves.

There will be shade. Tips and techniques will be shared.

Additional cuttings from your garden welcome.

Please let Norma know if you plan to attend 8536 6276.

GROWING PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS

Some gardeners have the mythical green thumb and can make just about anything grow. Others of us follow a few tried and tested steps to produce a creditable range of plants from cuttings.

Four essentials are clean pots, clean potting medium, sharp secateurs and healthy stock material. Rooting hormone or honey may be used but is not essential.

Early morning is the best time to take cuttings because the plant usually has the most moisture at that time.

Keep cuttings cool and moist until they are potted up.

Many cuttings root faster if they are kept warm and humid.

THESE PLANTS GROW EASILY FROM CUTTINGS

February/March is a good time to take semi-hardwood cuttings from a range of plants including pelargoniums, geraniums, coleus, fuchsias, carnations, begonias, daisies, correas and other native plants.

MORE GARDENING JOBS TO DO NOW

- ✓ Time to repot cyclamen as they are putting out their first leaves and flowers.
- ✓ Clean away any soil and old roots and re-pot them into well drained, just moist, quality potting mix.
- ✓ Do not water until they begin new growth.
- ✓ Bulb catalogues are landing in the letter box or the email in box and who can resist the tantalising photographs and descriptions of the stunning varieties of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, ranunculi and freesias.

Bulbs perform best when planted in full sun to light shade in a friable well drained soil.

Most bulbs can be planted any time during Autumn but it is best to wait until the soil cools down in mid May.

Keep the soil moist while the bulbs are actively growing and keep the area relatively weed free.

Feed bulbs twice annually - once at planting and again just after flowering. spread some fertiliser - such as blood and bone or composted chook manure - over the top of the soil and water in.



DR ROB ALLISON—WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

Water Sensitive Urban Design considers storm water as a resource not the nuisance it can be treated as when developers are designing urban landscapes.

Roads, extensive hard stand areas of paving and concrete, and large roof areas causing rainwater run off are water management issues that need to be addressed when managing storm water in urban areas. The rainfall is degraded by pollutants created by cars, pets, people and plants. As the storm water is discharged into the nearest creek bed and ocean the pollution damages and degrades the marine environment. The management emphasis is on removing the storm water as fast as possible to reduce the damage to the built environment with little thought or time given to correcting the water quality before it reaches the ocean.

Fortunately current urban design is being focussed on using water in the landscape as an important asset contributing to the health of the environment and the population.

Different methods are available for managing storm water. Wetlands, sediment ponds, rain gardens and infiltration basins are all used to manage excess water.

Adelaide is leading the country in 'managed aquifer recharge' as the limestone seams beneath the suburbs provide good storage for storm water.

The Hills and Fleurieu region contains a diversity of wetland ecosystems which are critical to improving water quality, regulating water availability, and conserving biodiversity.

Wetlands improve water quality through the capture,

retention and breakdown of excess nutrients, sediments and pollutants and they reduce erosion through the capture and slow release of water.

In wetlands carbon storage occurs within the soil and plants and critical habitat is provided for native flora and fauna species. Recreational opportunities are provided for the community.

Rain gardens, an alternative storm water management system, are beneficial for many reasons; they improve water quality by filtering runoff, provide localized flood control, create aesthetic landscaping sites, and provide diverse planting opportunities. They also encourage wildlife and biodiversity and have a cooling effect on the ambient air temperature.

There are a few important steps to take when building a rain garden which is basically a depressed garden bed with hidden features.

1. A wide and efficient inlet for the water.
2. A level set down surface
3. Appropriate filter media—sand and gravel layers.
4. A good coverage of plants that will spread across the garden.
5. Avoid organic mulches that will float, use gravel or similar as an alternative.

The following resources are available on the internet for further information and instruction.

Managed Aquifer Recharge Schemes in Adelaide

The websites - <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/>
and <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>



Vegetated swale at Underdale.

COMPANION PLANTING

COMPANION PLANTING EXPLAINED (briefly)

The theory behind companion planting is that certain plants may help each other take up nutrients, improve pest management, or attract pollinators.

A Biodiverse vegetable garden will have plants with different heights, leaf shapes, root depths, growth habits, flowers and scents. Useful companion plants will include nasturtiums, marigolds, calendula, dandelions, clover, comfrey, borage, alyssum, and alliums.

Secrets to successful companion planting

1. Avoid planting in monocultures and large blocks.
2. Practice crop rotation to reduce soil-borne pests and diseases.
3. Confuse pests using camouflage and competing fragrance.
4. Include flowering plants to attract beneficial insects.
5. Plant a decoy crop away from your vegetable garden.

Charts of Companion Plants for Australian gardens can be found on the internet and the book "Companion Plants" by Helen Philbrick and Richard B. Gregg is a comprehensive list of 'Plants that help each other and how to use them'.



SOME WINTER COMPANION PLANTS

Plant dill and rosemary next to broccoli.

Grow carrots and leeks together. Both have strong scents that drive away each other's pests.

Cauliflower enjoys celery, oregano and peas.

Cabbage enjoys being planted with beetroot, celery, potatoes, sage and any other strong-smelling herbs.

Companions plants for spinach include cauliflower and celery.

Radish don't enjoy brassicas but beans, carrots and peas are suitable companions.

Plant onions with broccoli, cabbages, lettuces and strawberries.

Nasturtium attracts caterpillars, aphids and whitefly, so planting it alongside or around vegetables such as lettuces and cabbages will help protect them. The adults will lay the eggs on the nasturtium leaves instead. The nasturtium can be pulled while the eggs are at a junior stage to rid the garden of this cycle.

Sage is a great herb to plant around celery crops as it helps to keep aphids away.

Borage is a great companion for your strawberries.

Avoid planting strawberries with cabbage, Brussels sprout and broccoli.



Garden
Clubs
OF AUSTRALIA

BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

12—16TH SEPTEMBER 2021

HOSTED BY TOWNSVILLE AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB INC

Timed to include the Townsville Orchid Society Spring Show
and

the Giru Agricultural and Horticultural Show.

Convention details including:

Program

Venues

Accommodation

Activities

Are available on the website www.gcaconvention2021.com and [Facebook.com/gca2021](https://www.facebook.com/gca2021).

Email perfect2021@mail.com or contact Shirley Haslam ph. 0438 253 312



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

General Meeting held Strath Neighbourhood Centre.

Friday 22nd January 2021 at the new time of 9.45am

Norma opened the meeting saying it was lovely to see everyone in the new facility. Please put phones on silent. COVID Arrangements – keep your distance at the Raffle table and morning tea, biscuits will be handed to you and we will be using disposable cups. Name tags are now yours to keep, please wear them at our future meetings.

Happy Birthday to dear Beryl who has just celebrated a very special one.

Welcome Visitors: Carolyn Prey, Viv Whitaker, Peter Husband. **New Members:** Nil

Attendance: 86 **Apologies :** 5 **Lucky Door Prize:** Anne Feast

Correspondence: Nil

Announcements

End of year lunch - 27th November cancelled only one person did not get the message which shows the Importance of having information buddies.

Steam Ranger - Heritage Railway planters still waiting on the cutting of the barrels.

Parker Avenue Community Garden – pergolas – bought from our grant fund from Bunnings are not the best quality. We do need help Wednesdays and Saturdays in the garden. We are picking vegetables and the fruit trees are performing well.

Strath Neighbourhood Centre Twilight Market today and 19th February and 19th March. Donations of plants and produce welcome also Jars with lids. Proceeds will help run the centre. Norma as chairperson advised there are lots of locals coming through the centre.

Food Matters workshops – Council run. Also, a snake handling course.

Minutes of the last meeting Friday 23rd October 2020 printed in the Newsletter

Beat the Blues bike ride – is on again this year, set for 21st March. We may be asked for flowers.

The Argus – business has been sold and the new people will take over in a couple of weeks.

Moved: P. Fairweather **Seconded:** M. Maxwell

Business Arising: None.

Treasurer: Ced advised that at this new year we are still afloat. Despite fewer meetings there are still overheads to be paid. Membership has declined from 158 to 121. Hopefully we will get back to normal as the year goes on.

Member's talk: Nil

Speaker: Dr Robin Allison gave us a very knowledgeable talk on Water sensitive urban design which he is very involved in.

Next Meeting 26th February