



# NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.strathgardenclub.com.au](http://www.strathgardenclub.com.au)

Email: [strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com)

Phone contact: 0416 173 573

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## STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM 2021

23rd July	Maurice Keen	All things Bees
<b>MONDAY 2nd August</b>	<b>Neutrog Pickup</b>	<b>6 Parker Avenue 10am—Noon</b>
27th August	Lyn Collins	Ferns
Friday 10th September	Coach Trip	Pangarinda /Motor Sports Park / Nurseries
24th September	Greg Kirby	Gardening with Native Grasses
Monday 4th October	<b>Strath Show 150th Anniversary</b>	Enter flowers, vegetables, art, craft and your garden.
Saturday 9th October	<b>Cavalcade of Gardens</b>	More details to come Save the date.
22nd October	Bloom & Photo Competition	5 Categories to enter
26th November	End of year celebration	More details to come

## 21/22 CLUB COMMITTEE

President	Norma Keily	0416 173 573
Secretary	Jenny Thomas	8536 4275
Treasurer	Ced Huxter	0457 570 984
Committee	Carolyn Huxter	0457 570 984
	Jackie Chapman	0422 549 823
	Sue Leers	0408 920 262
	Maria Maxwell	0412321036
	Helen Dawson	0429 870 525
	Jen Engelhardt	0417 820 019

- \* Assistant Treasurer,
- \* Audio Visual Technology Manager,
- \* Club reporter and photographer,
- \* A gopher or two who can step in as and when required.

Additional offers of help are always welcome and the best help comes in small ways: pay subs when due, bring the correct change for payments, arrive on time but not too early, and take ALL your belongings when you leave.

### Subs are due - \$10.

Pay either by:

Cash in an envelope marked with your name and contact details printed clearly and **left** with the Treasurer

**Or**

EFT (Internet Banking) to  
Strathalbyn Garden Club

BSB 105019 Account Number 037 873 640

Always put **your name** and the purpose of the payment **eg J.Adams subs** in the remitter line.

Send a confirmation email to  
[cchuxter@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:cchuxter@aussiebb.com.au)

Receipts will be issued.



## FROM THE KITCHEN

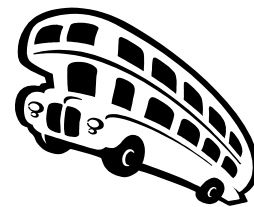
It is a great help if club members bring their own Mug for morning tea.  
Should you need to use a disposable cup it should be returned to the kitchen for correct disposal. Your cooperation with these small matters is appreciated.



# COACH TRIP

## FRIDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

### \$55.00 CASH PAYMENT ONLY



Leave correct cash in an envelope with your contact details and any special dietary requirements on the front to the Treasurer's table.

#### ITINERARY

- ⇒ Depart Strathalbyn—Colman Tce **9am (Board coach from 8.45am - No other pick up points)**
- ⇒ Visit Pangarinda Botanic Garden Wellington for a guided walk and morning Tea (Toilets ✓)
- ⇒ Lunch at Motor Sports Park—alternate drop Chicken or Roast of the Day
- ⇒ (dietary requirements catered for—provide details with payment)
- ⇒ Notts Nursery Murray Bridge (10% discount on purchases)
- ⇒ Serenity Garden Centre Murray Bridge
- ⇒ Home by 5pm

#### Pangarinda Botanic Garden - "Our Best Kept Secret"

This garden is a link in a chain of endeavour to conserve Australia's threatened flora. We prioritize species from the highly modified drier agricultural regions of southern mainland Australia.

Situated on 30 HA of Crown Lands, Pangarinda Drive, Wellington East, South Australia

Flowers in bloom may be the huge collection of Hakeas. The very striking blue flowered Hakea lehmanniana blooms right in front of the information bay. This Hakea is not common in cultivation. There is also the sky blue Lechenaultia biloba flowering at the same time throughout the gardens. Some species of the Kangaroo Paw are beginning to bloom, as well as Banksias, Dryandras and Petrophiles.

Watch out for the small quails that scoot across from one bush to another. Also the noisy babblers, flying low from one bough to another.



Serenity Garden Centre - everything from elephant statues to bonsai pots



Pangarinda dryland natives, and wildlife



Notts nursery for unusual and desirable plants.

## SEASONAL CHANGE

Although still cold and wet the buds on many late winter-flowering plants are starting to swell and blossom is already appearing on almonds, prunus, daffodils and jonquils – the traditional heralds of spring.

Many plants respond to the lengthening daylight hours by bursting into life, while for others the dominating growth factor involves soil temperatures.

Over the next 3 to 4 weeks as soil temperatures start to climb, temperature-sensitive plants (particularly deciduous plants) will also be stimulated into activity as a prelude to their bud burst in spring.

## WINTER PRIORITIES

Where possible, the pruning, planting and moving of deciduous trees and shrubs, particularly roses, should be completed while these plants remain dormant.

The following seeds can be started now under cover ready for planting out in early September:

Beetroot, Cabbage, Capsicum, Chilli peppers, Eggplant, Lettuce, Onion (all types), Silverbeet, Tomato.

Seeds of the following can be sown direct in early August : Peas, parsnips, potatoes, radish, rocket and sunflowers.

Asparagus crowns should go in soon.



## CONTROLLING INSECT DAMAGE

For a safe and very effective way to control summer insects, try spraying trees soon with winter oil - eg **Yates White Oil**. Winter oils (also referred to as dormant oils) are designed to be used on deciduous trees and shrubs – particularly roses – while they are dormant, i.e. after leaf fall but before new season buds begin to open in spring.

As an insecticide they are very effective in killing a range of “hard-to-control” garden pests, such as mites, scale and aphids, while they overwinter on plants.

At the same time they have no adverse effect on “beneficial” insects such as ladybird beetles, lacewings and hover flies. These are not usually present on dormant trees and shrubs during winter.

### SOFT OPTION FOR ORGANIC GARDENERS

Winter oils pose little risk to people or pets and, providing they are not applied after new growth begins in spring, they will not damage plants.

Winter or dormant oils such as Yates White Oil should not be confused with summer or superior oils such as Eco-Oil or Yates Pest Oil.

These are more highly refined and designed to be used during the growing season without damaging plant leaves, flowers or fruits.



Information from - **Good Gardening** : *Jon Lamb's weekly reminders July 16th 2021.*

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## MEETING REMINDERS

**The Meeting Room Doors do not open until 9.30am to allow for uninterrupted room setup.**

### TREASURER'S TABLE

All money brought to the Treasurer's table, whether for subs, trip payments, end of year lunch etc, should have the **exact amount** in an **envelope** with your name, contact details and the purpose of the payment written clearly on the front. To be left at the table. Receipts will be supplied.



### SIGNING IN

1. Sign in with the QR code using your phone or on the written contact tracing forms
2. Sign into our meeting register and record any apologies.
3. Pick up your name badge to wear.
4. Leave your name badge at the end of the meeting.



### RAFFLE

Donations for the raffle table need to be of an acceptable quality.

Pots should be protected with a plastic bag to prevent spills and leaks and labelled with plant details.

No books or magazines or items not related to gardening.

The table managers reserve the right to move some items to the donation table.

There is a one way flow for approaching the table.



### DONATIONS AND SELLERS TABLES

Club members are encouraged to offer plants to the Donations Table with all funds raised going to support the Club.

Sellers may book a table and make a donation to the Club for the opportunity to sell their garden related items.

### CAR PARK

Entry to the carpark is a one way flow from the left of the building facing Parker Avenue and around the back to angle parking. Please park carefully allowing space for as many cars as possible.



### YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please keep your contact details—email, phone and street address up to date on our records so we can get in touch if needed.

### MEMBER PROFILES

Why not volunteer to submit a profile for the newsletter rather than waiting to be asked? Questions to answer—how you got interested in gardening, favourite plants, interesting challenges, motivation, greatest triumph. Please!





## Karkoo Nursery—18 Oakwood Road Oakbank



The historic Johnston Brewery at Oakbank has recently been transformed into the most enticingly delightful plant nursery and garden ware shop with café.

The large site has every corner and building devoted to a wide range of indoor and garden plants, pots, garden ornaments, outdoor furniture and collectible ephemera all attractively displayed.

The café is warm and inviting with a varied menu to suit all tastes.

Highly recommended for an outing any day. Open 9 - 5 everyday except Sunday 10 - 5. Allow ample time to enjoy the experience.



Located on the edge of Oakbank next to the racecourse it is a pleasant drive from Strathalbyn. Ample parking on site.







# STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

General Meeting held Strath Neighbourhood Centre.  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Meeting commenced:** 10.11am at the close of the AGM. Please put phones on silent. Keep COVID Arrangements – distance at Raffle table and morning tea, use sanitiser at raffle table and morning tea, it is important to sign in on our attendance book as well as for Contact Tracing.

**Welcome Visitors:** Sharon Crase, Wendy Wilson, Jen Englehardt.

**New Members:** Nil

**Attendance:** 77

**Apologies:** 11

**Lucky Door Prize:** Rae Edwards

**Correspondence:** Nil

## **Announcements**

**Train station barrels done** – check on them occasionally

**Raffle table donations** to be in plastic bags, labelled, no books or magazines and the table managers reserve the right to move some items to the donation table

**Raffle one way flow** for approaching the table

**Morning tea** – please put used recyclable cups in the bin provided.

**Neutrog Order** – One month to ordering. We can help if you are having difficulty with the new system.

**KI TFL 12** boxes have arrived – they are in the car park ready for collection today.

**Minutes of the last meeting** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May printed in the Newsletter

**Moved:** A. Walsh **Seconded:** V. Phillips

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Treasurer:** - Ced expanded on his original report for 20/21 financial year. This year has been a struggle; Covid has left its mark on our finances due to the cancelled meetings June/July/August. We have run at a loss and it will take us some time to recover.

**Guest Speaker:** Steve Walker gave a very knowledgeable and entertaining talk on the world of frogs.

**Next Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

# FROGS OF THE ADELAIDE HILLS—STEVE WALKER

Steve Walker is an Education Officer with Green Adelaide and is the founder of Frog Spotter SA and the coordinator of Frog Watch. He is understandably excited and enthralled by frogs.

Steve began by declaring that frogs are bizarre, unique and exciting animals and that our local frogs are both weird and wonderful.

The calls heard in the garden which are often mistaken for crickets and other insects are quite often more likely to be frogs. Frogs control insects and are in turn food for other predators.

Over the millennia, frogs have adapted to the environment and have developed a fascinating variety of self preservation techniques. These techniques range from species that roll over and play dead to deter predators, to ones that flash red danger stripes, others puff up and jump toward the predator and the painted frog and tree frog that screams to frighten predators. The Eastern Banjo Frog has poison glands on the back legs which can be very damaging to eyes as Steve himself experienced. It is not water soluble so cannot be washed out or off.

Frogs are survivors and during dry spells can be found under logs and rocks. Some bury themselves deep underground where they survive on water stored in the body and absorb oxygen through the skin.

Camouflaging colours and lumps and bumps help frogs to survive in their habitats and this can also create some confusion when amateur frog watchers attempt to identify them.

The free FrogSpotter mobile apps and the FrogWatch SA website are the powerhouse behind FrogWatch SA. They are designed to make it easy and fun to learn about South Australia's frogs and to collect essential knowledge about them. By taking part in frog surveys, you can help us better understand the condition of the environments frogs are dependent on in South Australia.

You don't have to be an expert to contribute. People of all ages, knowledge and background can take part. There are many ways to participate: as a FrogSpotter, as a group coordinator, or as a frog call identifier. We need information at all times of the year and across all of South Australia.

The best time to count frogs is when they are breeding. Although this is in winter and spring for most types of frogs, some frogs breed in summer and most desert frogs will breed only after a big rain, which can occur at any time of the year. The exact timing that is best for a species to breed can change from year to year and region to region because it is influenced by many environmental conditions such as temperature and rainfall. So we encourage you to get out FrogSpotting as often as possible and to cover as many parts of the state as you can. Log on to the website for additional information.



## BUILDING A FROG POND

Steve also provided information on how and where to create a frog pond. He advised not to position the pond too close to the house or the neighbour's house as the frog calls can be loud and persistent for many months and particularly at night.

Some shade (about 70% shade and 30% sun). This will ensure that a little bit of algae grows, which is necessary for happy frogs and the fallen leaf litter will provide a bit of sustenance for tadpoles in the pond.

Adjacent to the pond provide rocks, logs, leaf litter and appropriate shrubs. A good, frog attracting pond needs a total of about 1m<sup>3</sup> of water, and it needs to vary in depth, with a deep section of at least 50cm because Australian frogs don't live in water all the time. In fact, they are used to their watery habitat drying out during summer and so take to the shelter of lush grasses and plants. Be aware that many fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides can do dreadful things to frogs, tadpoles and their food sources, so limit the use of chemicals.

Take care when adding water as chlorinated tap water must be allowed to stand, for about 5 days, in a clean container or bucket before it is introduced to the frog pond, to minimise any risk to resident tadpoles and frogs. Water from metal tanks should be treated in the same way, as frogs can be quite sensitive to chemicals that are present in some metal water tanks. Oh, and if you need to top up an inhabited frog pond, don't just blast the water in. Tadpoles can become over-buoyant if the water contains too much oxygen, so a steady trickle is ideal!

Frogs and tadpoles need a variety of both in and out of the water. Ideally, plants should be indigenous to the local area, and include shrubs, grasses, ground covers and water plants to provide shelter and food for tadpoles and frogs, and to attract insects and bugs to feed them.

Avoid plants that form a mat on the top of the water like Duckweed and Azolla and also any exotic water plants that are environmental weeds.

Steve recommended the publication: **Adelaide Gardens a Planting Guide** published by Natural Resources, Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges.

