



# NEWSLETTER

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

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## STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM 2021

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	Strath Show 150th Anniversary	Enter flowers, vegetables, art, craft and your garden.
Saturday 9th October	Cavalcade of Gardens	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

### AUGUST MEETING COVID PROTOCOLS

Masks to be worn at all times except when having morning tea.

COVID sign in and also sign in on the Attendance Register.

Social distancing applies so keep your distance.



### Subs are due - \$10.

Pay either by:

Cash in an envelope marked with your name and contact details printed clearly on the front 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.



**If your name is highlighted in yellow it means your subs are due.**

**We are aware that some of our members have moved house but they have forgotten to keep the Club informed of their updated contact details.**

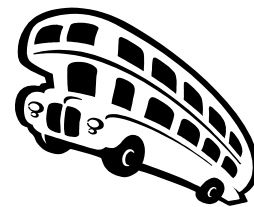
If you have changed your address, phone number or email please send the new details to [strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com) or phone or text the Treasurer Ced Huxter 0457 570 986

### 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 with **Maria at the Welcome Table at the August Meeting.**

**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

5 seats still available. Tell your friends.

Masks will be worn on the coach unless medically exempt.

**TOP TIP!**

Pouring liquid fertiliser from a heavy, awkward 5 litre container often results in spills and dribbles. No More!

Jane Edmondson of Gardening Australia recommends using a top from a standard sauce bottle. It will fit firmly as the openings are the same size.



**TRAIN STATION WATERING**

Our wine barrel planters on the Strathalbyn station platform are growing nicely.

A watering can is now tucked in behind the yellow lid bin next to the outdoor sink. Wine barrels tend to dry out around the edges and as the weather warms the plants will need a drink at least weekly.

Half a watering can for each barrel equals 4 trips to the tap and it took me just over ten minutes to water all eight. Naturally a bit of extra time tip pruning for shape and removing spent flowers is useful. There is a green bin next to the yellow bin for garden waste.

(Behind the Stationmasters Gallery.)





# NOT ALL WEEDS ARE VILLAINS.

## AFTER A FIRE, SOME PLANTS — EVEN WEEDS — CAN BE BETTER THAN NONE

The Invasive Species Council and other observers have argued for weed control as a major priority following bushfires, to promote the recovery of wildlife and damaged ecosystems.

However, there is growing recognition that weeds can support a range of critical ecological functions.

A weed is typically a plant that inhabits and endures in an ecosystem where it did not occur before. It can be either native or exotic, and generally moves into new habitats when it has an advantage over resident plants.

Weeds commonly produce a large number of seeds and they reproduce and survive well in environments as diverse as cities, deserts, farmland, bushland and gardens. They succeed in a range of temperatures and climates.

### ARE WEEDS BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

It is important first to recognise that species classified as native do not always have positive effects on the local environment. The native Christmas beetle, for example, is suspected of killing multiple broad-leaf peppermint gums (*Eucalyptus dives*) in Australia. Similarly, categorising flora according to how long these have occupied an ecosystem does not tell us much about a plant's role in that habitat.

The underlying assumption for conservation and restoration is that non-native species offer little by way of ecological benefits. But this is not necessarily the case.

### WHO DECIDES WHAT'S A WEED?

There are official lists of weeds in Australia. But for many, the term "weed" is vague, non-scientific and highly subjective. Weeds can be non-native or native species. They're generally considered to be plants that are growing in places, or ways (for example, in high abundance), that are undesirable.

Their "undesirability" may be traced to a wide range of economic, social, cultural, aesthetic and political reasons. From an ecological perspective, weeds are often blamed for stifling native plant growth, altering wildlife habitat and changing ecological processes. Many assume weed control will improve native plant growth, habitat quality and ecosystem function.

In some situations, however, weeds provide valuable ecological functions by, for example, offering food and habitat for wildlife, protecting soils and landforms from erosion and slowing down the movement of water through catchments.

Riparian weeds can support rivers and streams by trapping sediments and contaminants washing into channels via run-off. Exotic riparian willows (*Salix* spp.) can also provide habitat and food sources for aquatic fauna.

Weeds may also promote regeneration of native plants by helping stabilise soil, providing shade and protecting seedlings from being eaten by animals and pests.

At larger scales, weeds can also enhance the dispersal of native plant seeds. In highly cleared parts of north-eastern New South Wales, for example, camphor laurel trees (*Cinnamomum camphora*) – an introduced species – can provide habitats for fruit-eating birds that disperse and establish native rainforest plants.

### THERE'S A LOT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT WEEDS

In some cases, weeds may be the only plants that grow back well after fires. And some plants – even weeds – may be better than none.

We can't always assume that the presence of weeds is limiting native plant growth. The fact is we don't really know, in most cases, if removing weeds actually results in higher native plant diversity.

What we do know is that ecosystem functions, such as carbon storage and nutrient cycling, tend to increase where more species are present. And this holds true even in weed-infested forests, which often contain more species than their equivalent native ecosystems.

When it comes to weeds, question your assumptions

There is much at stake in Australia as we make decisions regarding the restoration of our unique ecosystems after the recent bushfire crisis.

Importantly, however, we can learn by not blindly acting on assumptions and ideologies. We can test assumptions through robust, long term ecological experiments.

Obviously, not all weeds should be retained. Non-native species can and do have negative effects.

However, we now face an opportunity to embark on a more considered approach to conservation and restoration.

we must never stop questioning our land management practices.



Blackberry—friend or foe?



Christmas beetle



Camphor laurel

# KI TREES FOR LIFE PROJECT.

The club is currently caring for twenty boxes of seedlings.

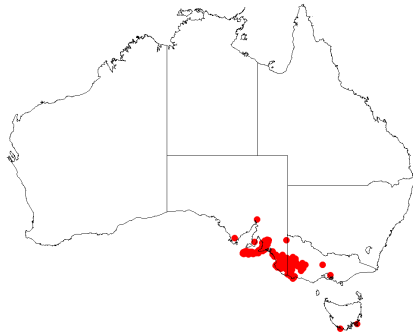
Our growers were warned to be patient as late winter is a time for very slow germination for many of the species.

It can be a little disheartening as the daily inspection reveals nothing green until the day when the first green tip appears.

The first of my *Hakea rostrata* appeared on Saturday 21st August, just 3 weeks since the seeds were sown.

*Hakea rostrata* is a spreading shrub growing 1 to 4 metres high with spidery white flowers and long thin leaves and it is common in southern Australia.

Ferdinand von Mueller first named the species in 1853.



Information from  
Wikipedia.

Mueller was born at Rostock, in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. After the early death of his parents, Frederick and Louisa, his grandparents gave him a good education in Tönning, Schleswig. Apprenticed to a chemist at the age of 15, he passed his pharmaceutical examinations and studied botany under Professor Ernst Ferdinand Nolte (1791–1875) at Kiel University. In 1847, he received his degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Kiel for a thesis on the plants of the southern regions of Schleswig.

Mueller's sister Bertha had been advised to seek a warmer climate for her health, and the great botanist Ludwig Preiss, who had recently returned from Perth, recommended Australia, so in 1847, Mueller and his two surviving sisters sailed from Bremen. While still on the ship, he reportedly fished his first plants out of the water to analyse them.

He arrived at Adelaide on 18 December 1847 and found employment as a chemist with Moritz J. Heuzenroeder, in Rundle Street. He was an inveterate explorer, walking alone to Mount Arden and Mount Brown during his first year. Shortly afterwards, he obtained 20 acres of land not far from Adelaide in the Bugle Ranges, and had a cottage built there. He moved there with his sister Clara, intending to start a farm, but after a few months, he returned to his former employment.

Mueller thought to open a chemist's shop in the gold diggings, so in 1851, he moved to Melbourne, capital of the new colony of Victoria. He had contributed a few papers on botanical subjects to German periodicals, and in 1852, sent a paper to the Linnean Society of London on "The Flora of South Australia", thus beginning to be well known in botanical circles.

Mueller was appointed government botanist for Victoria by Governor Charles La Trobe in 1853, a post that was newly created for him. He examined its flora, especially the Alpine



vegetation of Australia, which was previously unknown. He explored the Buffalo Ranges, then went to the upper reaches of the Goulburn River and across Gippsland to the coast. The neighbourhoods of Port Albert and Wilsons Promontory were explored, and the journey of some 2,400 km was completed along the coast to Melbourne.

In the same year, he established the National Herbarium of Victoria. It has many plants from Australia and abroad, many of which were collected by Mueller.

Mueller was then nominated as the botanist to accompany the North Australian Exploring Expedition (1855-1856) led by Augustus Gregory. He explored the Victoria River and other portions of North Australia, was one of the four who reached Termination Lake in 1856, and accompanied Gregory's expedition overland to Moreton Bay. Mueller, for his part, found nearly 800 species in Australia new to science, such as *Macadamia ternifolia* (named after his friend and colleague, John Macadam).[5] He published in this year his Definitions of Rare or Hitherto Undescribed Australian Plants.

From 1857 to 1873, he was director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and not only introduced many plants into Victoria, but also made the excellent qualities of the blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) known all over the world, and succeeded in introducing it into the south of Europe, North and South Africa, California, and the extratropical portions of South America.

He took a leading part in promoting Australian exploration, especially the Burke and Wills expedition, which was the first to cross the continent, and in the various attempts to unravel the mystery which attended the fate of his fellow countryman Ludwig Leichhardt (1813–1848).

## OPEN GARDENS SA 2021 SPRING CALENDAR

### WEEKEND OUTINGS SORTED!

A Full list will be available on the Website. <https://www.opengardensa.org.au/current-season>

Entry Fee \$8 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

In these uncertain and variable times, it is important to confirm garden openings by checking the webpage. Garden openings will adhere to Government directions applicable to COVID-19.

### September

<b>Avondale 1</b>	Saturday 04 September	to	Sunday 05 September 2021
146 Avondale Road, Rhynie			
<b>Battye Farm</b>	Saturday 04 September	to	Sunday 05 September 2021
1 Battye Road, Encounter Bay			
<b>Rosie and Mick's Garden</b>	Saturday 11 September	to	Sunday 12 September 2021
4 Graetz Tce, Springton			
<b>Al Ru Farm</b>	Sunday 19 September 2021	to	Sunday 19 September 2021
1016 One Tree Hill Road, One Tree Hill			
<b>Working Person's Garden</b>	Saturday 25 September 2021	to	Sunday 26 September 2021
11 Ringmer Drive, Burnside			
<b>Marybank Farm</b>	Sunday 26 September 2021	to	Sunday 26 September 2021
404 Montacute Road, Rostrevor			

### October

<b>Avondale 2</b>	Saturday 02 October 2021	to	Monday 04 October 2021
146 Avondale Road, Riverton			
<b>Crabapple Cottage</b>	Saturday 09 October 2021	to	Sunday 10 October 2021
1 Jean Street, Leabrook			
<b>ElderHood House</b>	Saturday 09 October 2021	to	Sunday 10 October 2021
12 Prospect Road, Pt Lincoln			
<b>Tickle Tank</b>	Saturday 09 October 2021	to	Sunday 10 October 2021
24 Hill Street, Mt Barker			
<b>St Mary's Vineyard</b>	Saturday 16 October 2021	to	Sunday 17 October 2021
563 V & A Lane, Maaoupe (near Penola)			
<b>The Garden at Wilpena Street</b>	Saturday 16 October	to	Sunday 17 October 2021
41 Wilpena St, Eden Hills			
<b>Ashgrove Iris Garden</b>	Saturday 30 October 2021	to	Sunday 31 October 2021
53-55 Albert Street (cnr Randell Terrace), Gumeracha			
<b>Lelant</b>	Saturday 30 October 2021	to	Sunday 31 October 2021
1 Waller Drive, Clare			

### November

<b>Botathan</b>	Saturday 06 November 2021	to	Sunday 07 November
51 Hunt Road, Mt Barker			
<b>Tweed Cottage</b>	Saturday 06 November 2021	to	Sunday 07 November
54 Woodside Road			
<b>Doole Garden</b>	Saturday 13 November 2021	to	Sunday 14 November
95 Montarra Road, Dingabedinga (near Willunga)			
<b>Cooinda</b>	Saturday 20 November 2021	to	Sunday 21 November
8 Fowler Rd, Mt George			







# 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.

The July meeting was cancelled due to a Covid lockdown so the June meeting minutes have been provided a second time,

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

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