



President's Report

This newsletter is the culmination of discussion going back a couple of years. The need for such a publication has been obvious but the drawback has always been to find someone to tackle the task on an ongoing basis. The idea of spreading the work over a number of members means that it has now come to fruition.

The direction the newsletter will take in the future is unknown and will be determined by members providing both input and output. These are not difficult tasks and I call on members to contribute in any way they can. Thank you especially to Lynda for stepping in with this first issue.

Winter is often seen as a bleak time and this one has been exceptionally so. However it is a time when the South African bulbs shine and they have done so despite our exceptional rain and hail storms. I have spoken at several Garden Clubs over the last few months, taking living examples with me, and delighted attendees with the range of styles and colours on show. August is a month when the European bulbs join in the riot of colour in our gardens. I keep being asked where these beauties can be obtained and my answer is always the same, "Come to our January show in Hahndorf." What this means is that it is up to the membership to provide as rich and varied selection of bulbs for the show as possible.

LILIUM AND BULB DIARY DATES

- 28 Aug** **Stirling Market Promotional Day** – volunteers needed
- 7 Sept** **General meeting.** Speaker TBA
Supper – Trinnette Reichers
- 5 Oct** **AGM.** Topic 'Through the Lens.'
Supper – Suzanne Freeman and Lynn Elzina-Henry
- 2 Nov** **General Meeting.** Topic 'Wetlands and Water.'
Supper – Kate O'Brien and Margaret Greig
Last day to return photos for competition in exhibition Jan 2017
- 27 Nov** **Stirling Market Promotional Day** – volunteers needed
- 1BA Dec** **Internal Show.** Venue to be confirmed.
Last date to provide bulbs to Nancy for Jan. Show
- 4 Jan** **BBQ** Greg Lawrence – Pre Show event
- 6,7,8 Jan** **2017 Show setup and Annual Show** - Hahndorf Institute

Welcome to the Winter Lilium & Bulb newsletter. There have been very interesting and varied talks given by members and guests this past season. I have trawled the archives and republished notes from Paul Roberts-Thomson on Lilium care as Spring is almost here and new members (like myself) may find these helpful with the annual show now 6 months away.

A tear off calendar (below) has dates for coming events and deadlines. Please pin that to your fridge or anywhere else that takes your fancy to keep you up to date.

And lastly, a call to members to contribute an article on a subject of interest, a pet project, successes or failures, an upcoming event or cultural notes – all would be most welcome for the Spring newsletter.

Lynda Demaagd

COMING EVENTS

Stanley Spencer Exhibition
Aug 3- Dec 4
Carrick Hill

Orchid Show
Sept 24-25, 10-4pm
Enfield Community Centre

ABC Carpark Capers
Oct 8, 8-1pm
85 North East rd.,
Collinswood

Iris Show
Oct 22-23, 11-5 & 10-5
Goodwood Community
Centre, Rosa st.,
Goodwood

Spring Salvia Plant Sale
Oct 30, 8.30-12 noon
Fullarton Community
Centre

A quick note from Carrick Hill...

Well it's been an interesting first year on the job that I have just completed here at Carrick Hill as the Head Gardener.

It was all hands on deck and full steam ahead with the revamping of the terrace gardens and renewing of the slate driveway that had become overgrown with Kikuyu grass over the years. Part of my role was to engage some of the different Garden clubs and groups in Adelaide and get them on board with Carrick Hill and to see if we could form some useful relationships that would have a positive flow-on effect for all parties concerned.

Much to my delight, and *Richard Heathcote's*, the Liliium society has been very supportive and has shown a keen interest in re-establishing links with Carrick Hill and the gardens here and we have been looking at ways to build on those historical relationships, and look to the future on how we can help support and promote each other's goals and ambitions over the coming years.

My appointment to the Liliium society's committee has been a great way for me to get to know different members within the organisation and to learn a bit more about the way the society rolls with propagation, sales, shows etc.

And getting to know all the active regular members that turn up every month has been great as well. Special thanks go to Rob Fairweather and Greg Ruckett for making me feel welcome and getting down to the business of what we can do to help each other.

One of the things that came out of all the early discussions was to "house" or to basically replant the Day Lily collection in a bed that we set aside at Carrick Hill.

This helps us out in the garden so that we can have such a diverse collection of Day lilies on display whilst allowing the plants to multiply and thrive in the grounds here without the need for any members to be spending time on them in their own gardens.

So far Greg, Rob & Kate have delivered plants and they have been planted in a bed especially set aside down in the Bower garden adjacent to the Pear Arbour but we are happy to accept the rest of the collection from other members who still have them in their care.

Just see me at the next meeting and we can arrange to pick them up if need be.

See photo.

The next year is looking like it might be another busy one for us with the added bonus of actually having a winter this year.

Our bottom dam is about 97% full already and we still have plenty of rain to come so fingers crossed we have a wet spring as well. As a point of interest, we have the Stanley Spencer Art exhibition, *A 20th Century Master*, here at Carrick Hill opening on Fri 5th of August running through til December and the garden will be reopening this Wednesday as well for all the members who wish to come and enjoy the grounds and soak up some early spring colour and come and say G'day...

Neil Waters.

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT ORCHIDS.....by Barb Field..

At the June 2016 meeting Guest speaker John Gay gave a most informative talk on Orchids with several beautiful examples to admire.

The origins of botanical names are always interesting and often surprising. The genus *Orchis* & family *Orchidaceae* gets its name via Latin from Greek *orkhis* 'testicle', a reference to the shape of the tuber in many species. Most orchids are epiphytic, anchoring themselves to trees; absorbing nutrients & moisture from the air through numerous pendant aerial roots. Others are terrestrial with swollen underground stems or root tubers, as are all but one South Australian orchids.

Australia has over 600 species of native orchids, many sweetly perfumed, though they are seldom as large & spectacular as the commonly cultivated exotics.

The first orchid was brought to Europe by the Spaniards in 1510. It was the *Vanilla* – *Vanilla planifolia* - which provided the second-most expensive flavouring extract. It's difficult to imagine non-availability of this delicious-smelling spice! The name comes from diminutive of Spanish – vaina = [pod or sheath] – little pod. It is a native of east coast of Mexico. A creeping tropical orchid with long elliptic fleshy leaves & pod-like fruit. Once used extensively by the Aztecs, the orchid was distributed to other parts of the world for commercial production – Madagascar, Reunion, Sri Lanka.

It is expensive to pollinate & time-consuming to produce the spice which is used as a flavouring in cooking, beverages, chocolates, perfumery & formerly, scenting tobacco.

Vanillin, the active principle of *Vanilla* has been produced synthetically for many years.

A quick guide to growing Liliums from Paul Roberts –Thomson, Managing Director of Van Diemen Quality Bulbs Co.

Paul gave a talk in March 2015 and reprinted here are his top tips for growing Liliums -

1. Get the position right:

Shade: Australia has a lot of bright light, and also increasingly hot summers.

In our climate, liliums generally appreciate some shade, especially the roots.

Air circulation: Planting the bulbs in areas with good air movement will substantially reduce the risk of fungal diseases in your foliage.

2. Get the soil right:

pH - generally Liliums like a pH of around 6.0. Orientals like it a bit more acid, while Martagons grow best at pH 7.0

Drainage is critical.

A lot of liliums are lost due to waterlogging in wet or overwatered situations, even in good soils.

Fertiliser - do not go overboard. Use a general purpose fertiliser at planting and a high nitrogen fertiliser once as shoots emerge.

3. Look after the feeder roots:

Liliums obtain most of their nutrition and water from feeder roots that emerge from the stem just above the bulb a couple of weeks after emergence.

These are quite shallow and easily dry out.

Mulching is a great way to keep your lilium roots cool and moist, increasing vigour and reducing the need to water so frequently.

4. Don't forget to water:

Liliums grow through the summer and are winter dormant, so while they're quite tough, they do need regular watering for good performance.

Watering is especially important from emergence to flowering.

5. End of season maintenance:

Do not lift the bulbs unless they're too crowded.

Cleaning up crop debris will reduce your disease risk next year.

Either pull, or cut the old stalks after the crop has died out.

The Lilium & Bulb Society of South Australia

Executive Committee President : Greg Ruckert 0402 318 183

Secretary : Marg Jenkins 0438 373 277

Treasurer : Fred Dolan 0422 205 298

Monthly Meetings held 1st Wednesday monthly (except July) at The Village Well Community Centre.

54 Strathalbyn Rd., Aldgate. 7pm for 7.30 start

Meeting supper hosts supply 2ltr. milk, tea towels and table set up.

Trading table and raffle monthly

Visitors and new members always welcome



Daylily bed, Carrick Hill. July 2016