



March 2024
48 Years of Growth
1976 - 2024



Contact Email: doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Web Address: www.doncastergardenclubaus.com

The next DGC committee meeting will be held on

Wednesday, 6 March 2024

8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East

The next DGC meeting will be held on

Wednesday, 13 March 2024

8pm at the RSL Hall, cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East

The Speaker for March is James Wall...speaking on Growing Vegetables in Containers

Committee Members 2024

President:

Pauline Webb

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Vice-President & Speaker Bookings:

Gladys Lim

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Secretary:

Avril Clark

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Fund Raising Co-Ordinator:

Anita Lizza

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Kitchen Co-Ordinator:

Ray Brett

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Linda's February Speaker Review:

Speaker: Keith Edwards

Subject: Soil Health

www.keithedwards.com.au



Last month we were entertained and educated with a wonderful presentation from Keith.

He is certainly passionate about his subject and did his best to impart his wisdom and lots of chemical/scientific knowledge which unfortunately I was not quick enough to transcribe.

What I did manage to get? That to improve our soil we need to use:

Rock dust, a mixture of bluestone, quartz and silica that improves our soil pH, water retention, microbial activity and general plant health.

Myco Gold, improves the level of beneficial microbial activity in our soil.

Bio Char, also helps the pH, porosity and water availability, creating favourable conditions for root growth and function increasing nutrient uptake leading to benefits for food production.

Clyde Compost, 100% natural which includes beneficial bacteria and fungi. This allows the soil to suppress disease, and retain nutrients for your plants, decreasing the need for fertilizers

Clyde Compost (lignite humate). Lignite is found in brown coal and has the capacity to increase soil moisture content by 200% Humate is naturally occurring and is formed when bacteria decompose biological matter

Together these products will improve the viability of our soils, making more nutrients available to our plants, which leads to healthy plants and importantly, plants grown for food are more nutritionally dense which is great for us.

*Keith delivers a daily podcast under the name "muddyboots". To have a look, google www.muddyboots.net.au.

*This year Keith grew "blue beauty" tomatoes (amongst many others) which he was very pleased with. Seeds were purchased from seedfreaks.com.au

*Keith also recommended a 5 tine fork, a corona eye hoe and garden trowel from ryset (who are due to speak to us in June)

DGC March Newsletter: President's Report

Hello Gardeners All,

What a dry month! I only measured 4.5mm rain. Along with the many days over 30deg, my ground is over dry and hard with many garden beds struggling in spite of being watered. Yours will be similar.

What a wonderful talk Keith Edwards gave us re: **Lignite Humate** which is brown coal repurposed for gardens and so beneficial in raising the nutrition, moisture and plant matter in our soils. Vince, at Clyde Compost, was surprised by the size of our order and gave us a good price. It has been placed and he will give me a delivery date in 2-3 weeks from that day. I will message those who ordered as soon as I know the delivery date. It will need to be collected and paid for that day as it will be on the front lawn with possible theft if not removed.

Gladys approached James Wall who speaks this month and he will bring the **soil conditioners/ fertilisers** some of us ordered at the last meeting. His 15% discount was most generous.

The products from both venues will set up the serious gardeners for the year or more.

I have been strengthening our Club's links with Aveo by **speaking at both Domaine and Roseville this last week**, presenting our Club for Social and own Gardening enjoyment to residents at morning teas where their Michael Gill promoted Aveos' Club Connect - the programme which will give us \$500 for attending a talk, a viewing of a unit and a morning tea. This is low key to show the advantages of Retirement Village life. Only people who request more info will be contacted by the Sales team. I believe Aveo to be very professional and most unlikely to break this agreement. It would not be worth damaging their reputation. Domain's Restaurant is open to the public with an à la carte menu. Ring to book if interested.

Michael Gill has given us the date of **Monday 25th March 10am to visit Pinetree Village on the corner of Springvale Rd and Doncaster Rd, North West corner of the intersection. I would like 2 to 3 extra people to make up the numbers please.** Too few of us and there's no \$500. Those who put their names on the list for Pinetree will be sent a reminder closer to the day. Michael has advised he will put together a hamper and have lucky tickets at the morning tea for those of us who visit. Michael and I will set dates for seeing Roseville and Domain this coming week.

I have also taken our advertising brochure and membership forms to **Kevin Heinze Grow** to strengthen our link with them as they are the closest gardening community to us. **Their nursery is open every day and sells native plants and exotics.** Veggie punnets are only available at their **Spring Fair** to which I have accepted an invitation to have a booth to advertise our Club. I will possibly need 6 volunteers for the 10am-3pm we 'man' the stall.

Could I please have 2 people to help with organising the 50th Birthday celebrations which is likely to be at Domaine Village in 2027, they have kindly offered and will save us many \$\$ in hiring fees. Avril and I should not have to do this on our own - many hands make light work, not to mention the friendships which will be built over talking and teas/coffees for the 2 years.

Open Garden: Those in the Club who wish to see Trevor and my sustainable vegetable garden with wicking beds, raised beds, grey water system and (almost empty) rain water tanks, do keep **Saturday 27th April free from 2:30-4pm.**

Happy Gardening, Pauline

DGC Life members

Gerda van der Peet
Doug Brewer
Ken Beer
Toni Myers
Gayle McCann

Ted Page
Joanne Driver
Elsie Carter
Bev Turner
Franziska Kung

New Members

Helen Wei
Grace Wei

March Supper Roster

Reinhard Stratemeyer
Noreen Wright
Christine and Terry Maher

All correspondence should be forwarded to Avril Clark - doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com
62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East 3109



Q: What did the blanket say when it fell off the bed?
A: Oh, sheet!

Q. Why did the monkey put a piece of steak on his head?
A. He thought he was a grillar

Q: What do you call a cow on a trampoline?
A: A milkshake!

Last Committee Meeting:	06 March	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Next Meeting:	13 March	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East
Following Committee Meeting:	03 April	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Following Meeting:	10 April	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East



Queensland Fruit Fly:

Females will die off in autumn so, if no females are pupating in the soil, you only need deal with the males.

Most males will die before winter, but some young males will survive, over-wintering in groups (leks) of about 10 in the canopy of trees, in particular lemon trees. In mid-autumn, place lures with Wild May in them in the canopy of lemon trees (if you have them) or other trees (otherwise) at a height of 1.5-2 metres, to deal with the males.

Check the lures weekly as the liquid evaporates.

Wild May is a pheromone that smells like the female and attracts the males. It is organic. It can be difficult to find but should be available from the Sustainable Macleod shop in the autumn at cost price.

If you have chooks (or can borrow some short term) then you are in luck. Chooks scavenge for larvae and will clean the soil like no other. They are truly the gardener's best friend in relation to QFF.

It can be very discouraging to endure a QFF outbreak and I have heard many a person say that they are 'giving up for this season'. But that will simply prolong the agony into the following season. Good garden hygiene, proper disposal of infected fruit and using lures proactively during autumn and winter will position you well for a great harvest next summer.



Using Coffee Grounds as Fertiliser in a No-Dig Gardening

To use coffee grounds in no-dig gardening systems, Apply a thin layer of manure to the soil. Next, apply a thin layer of coffee grounds. A layer of compost or worm castings of any thickness, if available. Cover with a layer with mulch around 7-10 cm (3-4") thick. Water the layers to settle the mulch and help moisten the layers beneath. Don't apply thick layers of coffee grounds onto the top of the soil, as they compact very easily due to their fine texture to form a thick crust which create a barrier that can restrict moisture and air movement, to plant roots.

PLANTING IN MARCH

COOL ZONE: Melbourne, Tasmania and Cool Highlands

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Beetroot
 Broad Bean
 Carrot
 Cauliflower
 Leek
 Lettuce
 Onion
 Parsnip
 Silverbeet
 Spinach
 Swede
 Turnip

HERBS

Chives
 Coriander
 Garlic
 Lemongrass
 Marjoram
 Mint
 Oregano
 Parsley
 Rosemary
 Tarragon
 Thyme

FLOWERS

Alyssum
 Cineraria
 Cornflower
 Forget Me Not
 Lobelia
 Lupin
 Pansy
 Poppy
 Primula
 Snapdragon
 Sweet Pea
 Viola



Plastic bottles refund

If you have plastic bottles with lids on, marked for 10c return and wish the Garden Club to benefit rather than the council bin, please bring them to the meeting. Gladys has offered to take them to the refund place near her and pass the money to our Treasurer.



Trading Table

Please do bring small quantities of items for the Trading Table but be prepared to take home things that do not sell. Payment is a gold coin for most things.

Exhibition Tables.

We have 2 tables: one is for anything you wish to bring to show. The other is for the items listed on the reverse of the Calendar of Events. March is Dahlias and Figs if you are lucky enough to have either in your garden.

March Roster

for Exhibition Tables
Ron Lewis
and
Hilda Frazetto

Exhibition Table

Best Entry



All Entries



Local producer news - Ben's Bees

You can now buy Ben's Bees' honey from his honesty hut
20 Perth Street, Blackburn Sth
\$12 for 500g or
\$30 for 1½Kg.
(LFC Newsletter)

Supporters and Sponsors



SEEDS @ PLENTY

15% discount when you key the Discount Code DGCseeds.

The discount will be applied to the invoice at the end.



Dolce Mio
Pasticceria & Gelateria



DONVALE
FLOWER GALLERY

Mensland
- 39 The Mall,
Heidelberg West



Ryset

The Committee each have a Ryset catalogue and an online pricelist to share with members. (Thousands of products) The Club receives wholesale prices which are usually the retail price discounted by 60-70%. Do ask to borrow the catalogue.

Please support our supporters, let them know you are a member of DGC and appreciate how they help us.

