



February 2025
49 Years of Growth
1976 - 2025



Contact Email: doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

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The next DGC committee meeting will be held on 5 February 2025 at 8 pm
 The next DGC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 12 February 2025**
 8 pm at the RSL Hall , cnr Doncaster Road and Leed Street

The speaker at this meeting is Seila Hierk on Seed Saving. He will be bringing honey to sell. Please remember to bring empty honey jars which he can reuse



Committee Members 2025

President:

Pauline Webb

Vice-President & Speaker

Bookings:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Secretary:

Avril Clark

0402 478 302

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Fund Raising Co-Ordinator:

Anita Lizza

Newsletter:

Rohini Padey

Toni Myers

Ray Brett

Esther Sim

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Kitchen Manager:

Reinhardt Stratemeyer

Presidents Report

Hello Gardener's All,

Christmas has come and gone once again as has January - that's 1/12th of 2025! What a month of extreme weather! It went from too cool in December, a couple of extremely hot days, good rain, more hot days, etc!

It is not good gardening weather. I dive out for watering necessary pots, etc, pick cucumbers and beans. The Rhubarb is growing like a weed.

The thunderstorm on the 12th January and 5hrs of rain gave me 24.4mm. If we have 10mm in any week, we should not need to water our gardens, presuming you have mulched them.

I have been busy with pickling cucumbers and making green gazpacho ie cold cucumber, green capsicum & avocado soup. (See online for good receipes with different flavourings), bottling rhubarb with apple and giving away excess.

With the extreme weather the cucumber plants are already looking tired and old. My tomatoes have failed completely and the beans and zucchini have done poorly.

We commence our meetings on Wednesday 12th February at the Hall. See you all there.

Happy Gardening, Pauline

December 2024 Christmas function

We had a wonderful end of year celebration with dance, music , delicious treats and amazing raffle prizes. The photos from this event are on our website , here are some special moments from that evening.

A big thank you to Ester and her friends for their lovely dance. Thank you to Anita for her efforts in collecting the special raffle prizes. Thank you to all our enthusiastic members who made this event special and our sponsors, we could not have done it without you all.



Camellia Society Nov 24 - Camelia Propagation article



Most varieties of Camelias grow from cuttings, a simple and inexpensive method of propagation that does not require complex equipment. Some reticulata hybrids grow on their own roots but broadly speaking reticulatas are better grafted.

- Cuttings should be taken in late January/February when the spring growth has hardened off. Bend the new growth gently, if the wood is too green it will bend, if it appears to be ready to snap it is ready to use.
- Sever the cutting approx. 10 cm long with sharp secateurs, making sure that only healthy, insect and disease-free wood and foliage is selected. If collecting multiple cuttings place them in plastic bags and label with a waterproof marker.
- Remove excess leaves from each cutting, leaving two per cutting. Some growers like to cut about a third from each remaining leaf to reduce the amount of moisture transpired, and to allow more cuttings per container.
- Using a razor sharp knife, cut the base of your cutting just below a growth bud on a slant using a soft wood cutting board to prevent squashing the cambium layer. Good results have been obtained by making a cut about 1cm long, exposing the cambium layer at the lower end of the cutting by removing the bark, which gives a much greater area to callus and produce roots. Cuttings may be dipped in hormone powder or gel if available.
- The medium used for planting should be three parts clean washed river sand and one part peat moss or commercial propagating mix in tubes or tapered cell propagating trays. The container should be filled and firmed to the brim with this medium which has been well watered.
- Make holes with a large nail or similar object, gently insert the cuttings, making sure that the end is at the bottom of the hole, then firm around the cutting with your fingers. The cuttings should not have more than half of their length covered by the mix.
- Cuttings should be gently watered, labelled with their name and then covered with a plastic bag or bottle. Place the pot in a warm, well lit position outside (but not in direct sunlight). Aim for a high humidity level as this will assist your cuttings to remain alive until a root system has developed. This should begin within 2—3 months although some take longer.
- When roots develop, plants should be placed in their own 7—10 cm pot in a light porous mix. Liquid fertilizer at half strength can be applied to encourage growth.
- Early spring should be soon enough to use a slow-release fertilizer raked into the top of this mix.

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 Bank the directly to the Clubs Bank Account.



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



All correspondence should be forwarded to Avril Clark - avril@spiritofprogress.com.au
62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East 3109

Next Committee Meeting:	05 March	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Next Meeting:	12 March	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East
Following Committee Meeting:	02 April	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Following Meeting:	09 April	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East

Missed Emailed Newsletters

If anyone does not receive their newsletter by Meeting night PLEASE CONTACT me as there were a few sent which did not arrive last time. Pauline

March Speaker is Kathleen Tant from Seasol. She will talk about their products and how they should be used for optimum results

Here are a couple of pictures of Mangoes from Margaret's garden. She has 2 different varieties



Edible Gardening - LFC News January 29

<https://localfoodconnect.org.au/lfc-news-january-29/>

Below is a list of edible gardening seeds and seedlings that can be **planted in February**.

Warm season veggies	Cool season veggies	Leafy greens	Roots	Other
Beans	Broccoli	Lettuce	Beetroot	Chives
Sweetcorn	Cabbage	Mizuna	Carrot	Fennel
	Cauliflower	Mustard greens	Onion	Leeks
		Silverbeet	Radish	Parsley



[This is the exhaustive list on the LFC website \(see the planting guide for more detail\):](#)

Avril's new adventure part 3

Over Christmas I was very busy and didn't water them as much as I should have. However they survived: the dwarf beans have now finished and I will cut them down and plant carrots and parsnips in their place for winter.

The chillies are fruiting well and the capsicums are coming along nicely.

If you have any questions about the above please feel free to ring

Warm regards

Avril



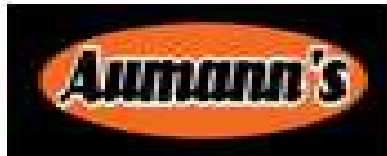
Do you know why the Hulk is a good gardener ?
Because he has Green Fingers.

What advice can you give a plant that's having a hard day? Just green and bear it.

Do you know why gardeners plant Bulbs ?
So the worms can see where they are going.



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<https://ryset.com>

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wholesale prices
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