



December 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, 4 December 2024

8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East

The next DGC meeting is the **Christmas Party and will be held on**

Wednesday, 11 December 2024

7.30pm at the RSL Hall, cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East

As this is our Christmas Party, there is no Speaker

Committee Members 2025

President:

Pauline Webb

0409 063 060

pauline.pw25@gmail.com

Vice-President & Speaker Bookings:

Vacant Position

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Secretary:

Avril Clark

0402 478 302

doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Fund Raising Co-Ordinator:

Anita Luzzi

Newsletter Editor:

Rohini Padey

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Linda Speirs

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Non-Committee Positions

Kitchen Manager:

Reinhard Stratemeyer

Newsletter Assistant:

John Murphy



PLANTING IN SUMMER

Fruit & Vegetables		Herbs	Flowers
Beans	Kohlrabi	Basil	Alyssum
Beetroot	Leek	Chervil	Bergamot
Broccoli	Lettuce	Chive	Billy Buttons
Brussels Sprouts	Parsnip	Dill	Chrysanthemum
Carrot	Peas	Fennel	Coleus
Cauliflower	Radish	Mustard	Echinops
Celeriac	Silver Beet		Everlasting Daisy
Chinese Cabbage	Swede		Hollyhock
Corn	Turnip		Viola
Cress	Warrigal Greens		Wallflower

Mulching

Mulch is nature's blanket, keeping the soil cool in summer and warm in winter. Mulch helps to stop a lot of moisture loss in soil and straw mulch is more gentle on the soil than bark mulch, so it's a good idea to mulch especially if you are going on a short break or vacation! Mulching before going away will keep your garden plants hydrated and in good condition when you return from your break.

It's a good idea to weed before you mulch and adding a small amount of fresh compost into the soil so it will allow your garden soil to hold on to moisture for longer during summer. Use about 5-10 cms as you work it around existing plants. Use half a bucket of homemade compost for larger potted plants that you cannot move into the shade. Give all the plants a nice thorough watering and leave it overnight before you go off on your holiday.



From the President

Hello Gardeners All,

It has been a messy month with the re-location of our end of year meeting but we are good to go. Aveo Domaine are contributing some food from a caterer to help us. Their business ethics are to be commended.

We are all to meet at THE RSL HALL, cnr DONCASTER Rd and LEEDS St from 7:30 onward.

Feel free to ask family or gardening friends - just bring a LARGER PLATE OF SUPPER. We are always looking for new admirers of our Club, ie supporters and members.

My gardening is behind where it should be for December- summer crops not all in. I hope most have achieved more.

I have measured 68.6mm rain this month. It is likely a good average even if in large quantities on fewer days.

With the warmth, the weeds are proliferating here as is the growth of shrubs which need pruning or hedging. Then there is the lawn/jungle waiting to be cut when the days are dryer.

Enjoy the summer, the Christmas celebrations and the leisure time until we return in February.
THERE IS NO JANUARY MEETING or NEWSLETTER.

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

February Supper Roster

To Be Advised

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



**Q: Why is the letter 'A'
like a flower?**
**A: Because bee
comes after it!**

**Q: Why did the meteorologist
stay in bed?**
**A: He was feeling under the
weather!**

**Don't worry about your
smartphone and TV spying on
you because your vacuum
cleaner has been gathering dirt
on you for years!**

Last Committee Meeting:	04 December	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Next Meeting:	11 December	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East
Following Committee Meeting:	05 February	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Following Meeting:	12 February	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East

The Art Of Watering



Imagine for a moment that you are parched with thirst. Would a teaspoon of water quench that thirst? Or a tablespoon? Or would you need at least a full glass? Chances are that it will be the latter and yet often we do not apply the same principle to plants – especially edible plants. Under-watering can be as detrimental as over-watering. A plant, like us, needs to be adequately hydrated to stay alive but also it needs to be hydrated so it can transport nutrients (particularly calcium) to the whole of its being, and to thrive sufficiently to produce the edible parts: leaves and stems, fruit and flowers, roots and seeds. Here are some tips on what to watch out for.

Edible plants in pots and punnets

Always watch what you are doing and ask yourself where did that water go? On to the leaves, into the soil, onto the path? Did I give the plants at the back or front or to the sides an even amount? Are any of them in a draft or next to a glass or plastic surface that will heat them up quicker than those in the middle of a greenhouse? If so they will need extra water.

Make sure you water the entire soil surface. Say you are growing some seedlings in a large pot or polystyrene box, look down at the edge closest to your feet and make sure that that edge is as watered as the back edge. Often we don't water what we don't see. Water right to the edges. If you don't do this, the soil will dry out, shrink away from the edge and then water will run straight down the sides of the pot and out the bottom. And if the whole pot is not evenly watered the drier soil on the edges will draw water from the middle.

As a plant grows bigger its need for water will increase even if the temperature stays constant. This is for 2 reasons – first because there is more of it, and secondly because as the root ball expands, it 'chews' up the soil and over time the pot becomes lighter as there is more root and less soil. This means that there is less soil to hold the water and it will dry out more quickly. Either the plant needs to be planted out in the ground at this point or potted into a larger pot with fresh potting mix.

Potting mix itself is designed to be well draining and provide good aeration. By its nature, it is not going to retain a lot of water. Its purpose is to allow good, rapid root development and nutrition uptake, and will keep the plant hydrated for a relative short time in hot weather – say 24 hours if you are lucky. Take this into account and plant out into the ground as early as practical. If you need to keep your plants in pots or boxes, consider the surface they are placed on – brick paving for example will heat up much more than soil. You could also stand your plants in shallow saucers or trays of water in the hot weather, and move them to a shaded area.

Consider also the material your pot or box is made from. Terracotta itself absorbs water so less is available for the plant if your pot is terracotta as opposed to plastic. Polystyrene heats up less than either. If you are using peat blocks or coconut coir pots you will need to keep them moist at all times. Coconut coir or vermiculite can be a useful addition to potting mix, giving it more ability to retain moisture. Make sure coconut coir is thoroughly soaked before adding it to your potting mix and sprinkle vermiculite through your bag of potting mix turning it right through evenly then dampen it, before placing it in your pots.

For more information about Watering, go to
<https://www.ediblebackyard.co.nz/water-like-a-pro/>
by Kath Irvine



Photo Above: Ted Page Receiving the Doris Killian Prize

Photo----->
Ray Brett
receiving his
Commendation
Award



Useful Websites:

www.organicgardener.com.au
www.neutrog.com.au

www.theseedcollection.com.au
www.rosesalesonline.com.au

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Ryset

Ryset sell high quality horticultural products. Their catalogue is online.

(Thousands of products). The Club receives wholesale prices which are usually the retail price discounted by 60-70%. Pauline can email the pricelist if you ask



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aveo.com.au

Butcher

Brendan's Butcher
Jackson Court
(Next to fruit shop)



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