



July 2023
47 years of growth
1976-2023



Contact Details

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Web address;

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Upcoming meetings:

The Doncaster Garden Club Committee meeting will be held on
Wednesday 5th July 2023
8:00 pm at 11 Inglewood Close, Doncaster East.

The June meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on
Wednesday 12th July 2023
At 8pm at the RSL Hall, corner Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East.

The speaker for July is John Hassal; Vertical Gardening

August Meeting - Subject: Orchids Speaker: Andrew Fernandez

Committee Members 2023

President:

Pauline Webb

Secretary:

Avril Clark

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Fund Raising Co-ordinator

Anita Luzzi

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Ray Brett

Gladys Lim

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Gardeners All,

What a month weather wise - the cold day and in June. The Bureau of Meteorology says climate turmoil/extremes occur when changing from a La Nina (cool wet) weather pattern to the El Nino (warm dry) one. I was fortunate enough to have 5 days in ☀️ sunny Maroochydore Qld across those days so viewed it on the internet and was told in emails by numerous people how miserable it was here. I won't mention the daytime temperatures of 21-24 degrees. I did come home to 19.5mm in the rain gauge!

It is much **too cold to plant** anything now unless it is on a hot mat but typically this end of June and all of July, I have found to be unsuccessful for planting as can August be if the temperatures do not lift. For this reason, I planted the garlic in May and early June this year (late June last year) and am hoping for better sized bulbs in November and December.

In late July or early August, it will be time to start Tomato, Capsicum and Eggplant seed IF it is to sit on a hot mat to grow. 22 degrees is ideal to set the thermostat. I use my hot mat all year: seeds are usually up in 5 days, or it is inside with fermented/cultured vegetables being prepared - the original salt pickles. These naturally use the lactose bacillus Microbes to produce home grown Probiotics for your gut. These need to be kept in the fridge.

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(Presidents Message continued from page 1)

If you are interested in trying DIY probiotics, barely cook 1/2 cup lentils or dry beans (pre-soak to swell) or slice or dice a raw carrot. VIP STERILISE a suitable size jar and lid upside down in the microwave for 1 minute or boil in a saucepan 15min. MAKE 5% salt water i.e., 50gm cooking salt to 1L water (do leave the water overnight first to degrade the chlorine in it as this will kill the microbes). You won't need 1L, 300-400ml will do so measure 17-18mg salt for that quantity of water. COVER beans/lentils/carrot with water. Sit this on the bench in the warmest spot, or on top of the fridge if it is warm or on the hot water system if you have an older style in the laundry. Cover with a lid but each day loosen the lid then replace just so the carbon dioxide generated can be released. This is termed 'burping' your fermented product. The ferment is under way when little bubbles are present. Taste from 4th day onward and when the flavour is as you like (a little sour) put in the fridge and use daily in small quantities until your gut is accustomed to it. Do not heat or you will destroy the microbes you grew! If it grows a coloured mould or fungus or develops a bad smell, throw out and start again.

I do have plenty of Bok choy which I pick by the leaf as I do the English Silver beet and Perpetual Spinach. This keeps the Bok choy growing new leaves in the centre and production lasts months until it goes to flower in Spring. The Snow Peas are tall enough to flower - they wait on sunshine coming? I have picked a few radishes, and more are nearly ready.

The Seed Raising Mix Workshop has been deferred from last month (such a cold Saturday too). It is now on Saturday 22nd July at 2:30-4pm. The clip board will be handed round at the meeting to add your name if interested. I will collect \$6 per person on the meeting night from those booking. This will be the total cost. Bring a laundry bucket to take some home.

Planning a new veggie bed? With the shortest day just gone, check which area receives winter sun and site your bed there. It will be a good spot for all year veggies. Make you bed 1 metre wide and up to 3 metres long from east to west for most sun on veggies with short rows across the bed. Will it be a no-dig garden or traditional in the soil? Both need suitable preparation for spring planting. The internet has good advice. Do read Victorian or Australian advice especially re- building soil as this can vary country to country.

DGC Calendar 2024: This needs 2 persons to help Margaret who has already priced the task. You only need to collect the photos people send you, choose your favourite 12 and Margaret will send them to the printer. This may involve 2-3 brief meetings together by mid-October. To all those with flowing shrubs or who take photos throughout the years, please send your best photos to Avril or me until we have our volunteer helpers, please.

Happy Gardening,

Pauline

COMEDY CORNER



Planting guide for July

COOL ZONE

(TASMANIA, ACT, MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, GEELONG & MOUNT GAMBIER)

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Asparagus
Broad Bean
Carrot
Celery
Leek
Peas
Radish
Snow Peas
Silver Beet
Spinach
Spring Onion

HERBS

Chives
Dill
Garlic
Mint
Oregano
Parsley
Rosemary
Sage
Shallots
Thyme

FLOWERS

Cyclamen
English Daisy
Lobelia
Pansy
Phlox
Polyanthus
Primula
Snapdragon
Stock
Verbena
Viola



D G C Life Members

Gerda van der Peet
Ted Page
Doug Brewer
Joanne Driver
Ken Beer
Elsie Carter
Toni Myers
Bev Turner
Gayle McCann



Supper Roster

July:

Claudia Raioli

Virginia Roberts

Hilda Hilda Frazzetto



June Speaker Review:

James Wall; life and times as a gardener

I hope you all enjoyed James' talk as much as I did...a very entertaining spot at our June meeting. Although James' presentation was general I took some notes to share with you all and perhaps they will be useful at some time in the future;

- James recommended Harry's fertilizer for Azaleas.
- He suggested that a Ripsalis Cactus is a great alternative to succulents...for a change.
- Cineraria "silver dust"...is a good value plant providing a contrasting silver foliage for 3 years.
- Hint; seedlings need to be replanted before they 'stretch'...get leggy.
- Garden ponds need regular balancing as fish 'poo' is acidic.
- Hunt for weeds now to have a great summer lawn.
- Plant your winter greens now so they won't bolt.
- Use lovage as an alternative to celery.
- Liquid dolomite is useful to break down clay soils.
- Rock dust; helps to convert nutrients already in the soil. If using on clay soil add some lime so it will "seep" in.



Competition Table

June competition winner for
“potted plants”
was Ron Lewis with his stunning hippeastrum.

Be sure to bring your
“Fruit/Vegetables”
for our July competition



No Dig Garden reasons

Not digging your soil, encourages it to become alive once again.

We've already discussed the 6 reasons to stop

digging your garden:

reduces soil compaction

leaves you with fewer weeds to wrangle

attracts more earthworms

increases water retention

improves your garden harvest

causes minimal disruption to the soil



rural sprout.com



Edible Gardens by Craig Castree

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Pruning Equipment

Before you go pruning too much particularly young trees you need to read this very carefully and pay lots of attention to the detail contained in it. We are the incredibly good at spreading disease throughout our gardens when we use pruning equipment. This includes, secateurs, clippers, loppers, pruners, shears, hedge clippers, knives, and anything else that you can think of that we use to trim or prune our trees and plants with. Without sterilising our equipment, we move from one tree or plant in our gardens spreading disease with the greatest of ease.

We all need to get a small plastic spray bottle filled with methylated spirits and learn to spray every time we move from one plant or tree to another. This kills any fungal spores and harmful pathogens that may be harboured on our equipment. It needs to be mixed in a solution of 80% methylated spirits to 20% water in a spray bottle. This maximises its effectiveness allowing the methylated spirit to last long enough on the equipment to do its job before drying. This is a crucial thing you must learn to do to ensure that you keep disease etc. kept to a minimum.

For more information you can obtain a copy of my books and further information go to <https://craigcastree/shop>

Please share this post with others.



FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC

Invite you to a

Winter Pruning Workshop

with
Chris England

Saturday 5th August 2023

Learn to prune different types of fruit trees - apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums and citrus. Learn to keep trees healthy and to a workable height and to recognise the different types of growth, and prune for maximum fruit. This is a small group workshop, where you will "have a go" under an experts watchful eye. Suitable for beginners or as a refresher for experienced pruners.

About Chris:

Chris started his interest in horticulture when working at an orchard in Warrandyte. He graduated from Burnley, worked in retail nurseries, ran a garden maintenance business and grew espaliers as a hobby. This hobby blossomed into a business creating formal and informal espaliers – Merrywood Plants. Chris now sends his high quality espaliers all over Australia.



When: Saturday 5th August 2023

Time: 10am – 1pm

Cost: Members \$55. Non-members \$70. (Includes morning tea)

BYO: Cleaned secateurs. All plant material supplied

Dress: Please wear closed shoes (health and safety

requirement).

Venue: PSL 6, Burnley Campus, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond. (Follow signs to Reception.)

Bookings essential: Via Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CIPLW> Numbers are limited so book early

Friends Of Burnley Gardens Inc

500 Yarra Boulevard Richmond 3121

ABN: 58 889 973 541

Email: friends.burnley@gmail.com

www.fobg.org.au

How to make homemade dishwasher tablets

Ingredients:

- 1 cup bi-carb soda
- 1/4 cup citric acid
- 1/2 cup sea salt
- 1 tbsp plain white vinegar
- 20 drops eucalyptus essential oil
- 15 drops lemon essential oil
- Silicone ice cube mould or tray

Method:

Add the bi-carb soda, citric acid and sea salt to a large bowl and mix until combined.

Add the essential oils, mix through, then add the vinegar to the mixture and stir through thoroughly.

Spoon the mixture into your mould and press down firmly until it's well packed.

Leave to set for 12 hours in a cool and dry place.

Once set, turn the mould upside down and gently tap the bottom to remove the tablets. They should pop out easily.

Store tablets in an airtight container in a cool, dry place.

To use, add your homemade dishwasher tablets to your dishwasher tablet compartment or if they're too large the cutlery drawer.



Supporters and Sponsors



SEEDS & PLENTY

15% discount when you key the Discount Code DGC seeds

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

Butcher

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

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. Everyone can go to Ryset for their own order 30 Kolora Rd Heidelberg West 3081. Enquiries: info@ryset.com Ph: 9457 1291

Mensland

- 39 The Mall,
Heidelberg West



WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



WINTER 2023 ORCHID **SHOW & SALES**

ST. SAVA COMMUNITY CENTRE

212 Diamond Creek Rd,
Greensborough, VIC. 3088.

Saturday: 5th August 9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday: 6th August 9.30am to 4.00pm

Admission: \$5.00

(Entry cash only please & sales cash & eft)

- **This seasons Orchids on show**
- **Orchids for sale**
- **Growing advice**
- **Potting demonstrations**
- **Plant accessories & potting mix for sale - (Please bring bags & boxes for your purchases)**

***Canteen will be open for Lunch,
and Devonshire tea.***

Find us on: www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au

Facebook/warringalorchidsociety

