

May 2023  
47 Years of Growth  
1976 - 2023



**The next DGC committee meeting will be held on**

**Wednesday, 3 May 2023**

**8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East**

**The next meeting of the DGC will be held on**

**Wednesday, 10 May 2023**

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

**The Speaker for May is Seila Heirk... speaking on Asian Winter Veggies**

**The Speaker for June is James Wall...speaking on the life and times as a Nursery man**

**Committee Members 2023**

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**A Message from the President**

Hello Gardener's All,

Well it is definitely Autumn. I am well into removing finished straggly summer veggie plants. The new seeds are mostly showing their early shoots and the seedlings are trying to settle in. I have a new rhubarb growing well for 3 months. There are still 2 beds waiting to have beans and potatoes pulled so the walking onion, kale and more potatoes can go in. The tanks are full after having 105.4mm for the month so far.

The Bunnings BBQ went well. My appreciation to the team of volunteers who did their allocated shift and the many customers who cannot resist a hot snag and the smell of onions. We made a net profit of just over \$730. A learning curve for me not to have the bbq next year in school holidays, Ramadam or Greek or Christian Easters - all reduce people at Bunnings when away or at family gatherings.

A small group of us enjoyed the volunteers lunch on 22nd.... the meat was provided by Brendans in Jackson Court.

We are a growing thriving Club which is rewarding for myself, Avril and the Committee. There have been 19 new members since October 22 when we had a similar afternoon tea at Avril's. 5 of these joined at the last meeting and one since. We hope you all enjoy your time with DGC as well as learn new skills.

On 20th May there will be a DIY Potting Mix Workshop at my place. The clip board will be passed round at the May meeting to see how many would like to come. \$2 to the Club and cost of materials. I will price them when I have numbers and know the quantity needed and email you all with the cost. Will each person please bring a 10L bucket to take some home. It is always cheaper to make one's own than buy, the quality of which is always doubtful if not dodgy.

We will also pass the clipboard round for names of people who would like to order some Munash Rockdust. The cheapest shop in Melbourne is GardenWorld at \$40 for 8kg. I am prepared to sell 1kg bags for \$6 with the extra \$1 going to the Club. The rockdust contains the complete range of minerals our depleted soils lack so plants thrive with a handful per sq metre. Diggers sell 1kg for over \$35.

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

## New Members:

John Murphy  
Jan Bartlett  
Soo Mei Leong  
Connie Lee & James Chan  
Virginia Roberts  
Jennifer Hutchinson

## May Supper Roster

Jenny Ngeh  
Swee Choo Yeoh  
Fay Jones

All correspondence should be forwarded to Avril Clark - [avril@spiritofprogress.com.au](mailto:avril@spiritofprogress.com.au)

62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East 3109

### Monthly Meeting:

#### Flower, Plant and Fruit Displays

May	Cut Flowers
June	Potted Plants
July	Fruit & Vegies
August	Cut Flowers
September	Potted Plants
October	Fruit & Vegies
November	Cut Flowers

April Winner: **Anita Luzza**

Category: Fruit & Vegetables



### **Pesticides and Bees**

Pesticide use is one of the factors thought to be affecting bee populations worldwide.

Since much of our food production depends on pollination by bees, whether bee populations have been declining globally is a serious cause for concern.

This new SGA article discusses the chemical ingredients that are most harmful to bees. Email: [cuttings@sgaonline.org.au](mailto:cuttings@sgaonline.org.au)

### Winter Salad Greens

**Arugula:** Plant arugula seeds in the early spring and again in late summer for a second crop. Plant three furrows in each growing row, one down the center of the row and two on either side, placed 4 inches (10 cm) away from center. Space your seeds every 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) apart, ½-inch (1 cm) deep. Arugula will germinate within seven to ten days and is ready to pick when the leaves are at least 2 inches (5 cm) in height for baby arugula and at least 6 inches (15 cm) for a mature harvest. Arugula prefers cool weather and will quickly grow vertically and begin to flower when it becomes too hot.

**Iceberg & Cos Lettuce:** Space seedlings 12 inches (30 cm) apart in a zigzag formation, with the plants off-setting down two strips of your raised bed. Although lettuce prefers cool weather, new seedlings will need to be covered to prevent damage from a hard frost. (Avoid planting with broccoli, celery and parsley. Use a little blood and bone and Rooster Booster ie chicken manure pellets.. P)

### Up and Coming Events

Wednesday, 10 May 2023	ASIAN WINTER VEGGIES - by Seila Heirk
Saturday, 20 May 2023	Potting Mix Workshop at Pauline's
Wednesday, 14 June 2023	LIFE AND TIME AS A NURSERY MAN - by James Wall
Saturday, 24 June 2023	Seed Raising Mix Workshop (in garage if wet, inside for
Wednesday, 28 June 2023	DINE OUT local hotel

Thought this was a great idea courtesy of GroVeg

A great little hack here, punch holes in the plastic instruction tabs that come with your plants and put on a binder ring....Your own bespoke encyclopaedia!

Photo Kelly Jones



### **Aphid Alert!**

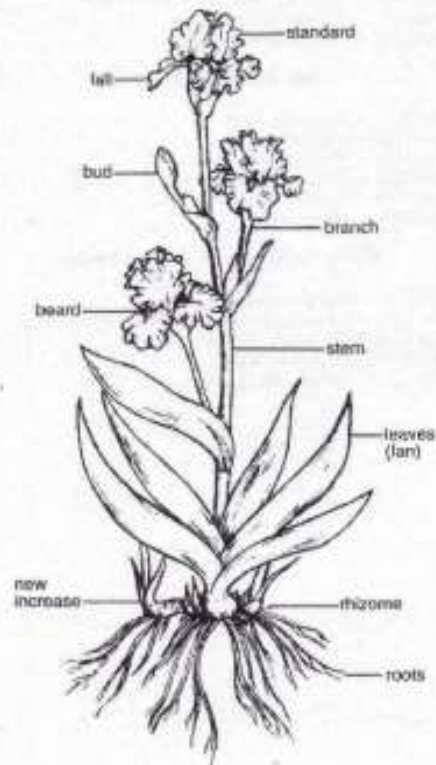
To get rid of Aphids, mix 1/3 cup of vegetable oil, a teaspoon of dishwashing liquid and a litre of warm water. Pour into a handheld spray bottle and spritz the affected areas

### **New Member Afternoon Tea**

On 29th April the Committee supported me in welcoming most new members who have joined since October last year. 21 of us enjoyed a walk in my edible garden (lots of work this last week to have it presentable) and a time of meeting one another and chatting. The afternoon tea was inside, not being sure of the weather although the 6mm Friday night was very beneficial. The late comers and Trevor were actually the 2nd sitting (hilarious 😊) so we all fitted into the dining room and lounge. A great time was had by all and the weather didn't chill off till people were leaving.



A Bearded Iris Plant



## Bearded Iris

**B**earded irises are so named for the beard of hairs on the lower petals [The Falls]. They are grouped according to the height of their blooms [Tall bearded irises reach a height of about 70cm and intermediate bearded iris vary from 35 to 70cm]. Bearded irises are thought to have originated from crosses between hardy central European species and large blossomed East Asian species.

**T**all bearded irises are considered to be the most showy and display the greatest range of flower colours. This is reflected in the extensive breeding that has been carried out with this group of irises.

## Cultivating Tall Bearded Iris

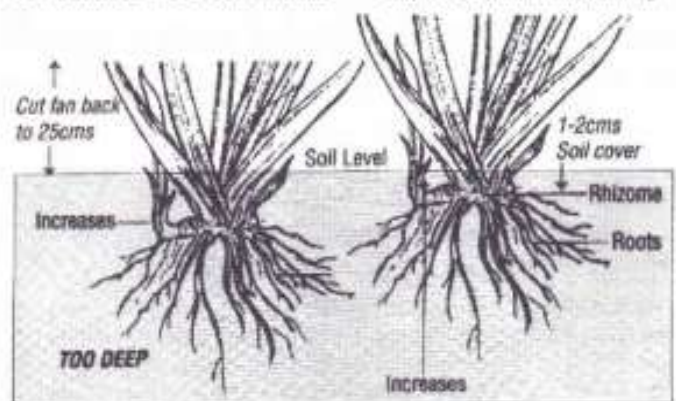
**T**all bearded irises grow best in climates that have hot, dry summers. They require an open sunny position and loose well-drained soil with a pH of 5.5 to 7.5.

**T**hese iris should be dug up and replanted about every three years, to remove old rhizomes and prevent overcrowding. This ensures that the quality and quantity of blooms is maintained. (Each rhizome flowers only once. The plant then puts energy into forming a new rhizome which will produce flowers in the next season.)

**T**he best time to plant or divide is from December to March. Fertilize in mid-March and Mid-August with Osmocote, N:P:K 6:6:6 or well rotted manure. Manure should be kept away from the rhizomes and dug into the soil as it can induce rotting. Water by giving the plants a good soak once a week.

### RE-PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEARDED and LOUISIANA IRIS

*Only cut back fans on replanting*





**Q: Why was the bee left alone at the New Year's Eve party?**

**A: When he got buzzed, he tended to drone on and on about himself. He was definitely not a humble bee! (ABC Science news)**

**Remember: when you bury a body, cover it with endangered plants so that it's illegal to dig it up! -submitted by Susan Palmer**

<b>Next Committee Meeting:</b>	<b>03 May</b>	<b>hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East</b>
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>10 May</b>	<b>at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East</b>
<b>Following Committee Meeting:</b>	<b>07 June</b>	<b>hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East</b>
<b>Following Meeting:</b>	<b>14 June</b>	<b>at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East</b>

### Sponsors and Supporters

#### **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 Kolara Rd Heidelberg West 3081.

Enquiries: info@ryset.com Ph: 9457 1291

#### **SEEDS OF PLENTY**

15% discount when you key the Discount Code DGCseeds

The discount will be applied to the invoice at the end

#### **Butcher**

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



Mensland - 39 The Mall, Heidelberg West

### Useful Websites:

These sites have seasonal updates of 'how to' so may be helpful in learning new plant and gardening skills:

[organicgardener.com.au](http://organicgardener.com.au)

[www.rosesalesonline.com.au](http://www.rosesalesonline.com.au)

[theseedcollection.com.au](http://theseedcollection.com.au)

[www.neutrog.com.au](http://www.neutrog.com.au)

Fruit & Vegetables		Herbs	Flowers
Beetroot	Spring Onion	Chives	Alyssum
Broad Bean	Swede	Coriander	Cineraria
Cabbage	Turnip	Garlic	Cyclamen
Carrot		Mint	English Daisy
Cauliflower		Oregano	Lupin
Chinese Cabbage		Parsley	Pansy
Citrus		Lemongrass	Primula
Shallot		Rosemary	Snapdragon
Silver beet		Tarragon	Sweet Pea
Spinach		Marjoram	

### **Molasses Spray**

A foliar spray of Molasses mixed with water can work wonders for your plants, keeping your garden healthy by nourishing and protecting from pests.

To make this spray, simply mix 1 tablespoon of molasses with 4 litres of water and spray it gently over your plants, including the underside of the leaves at the end of the day once the plants have cooled off from the heat of the day.



### **Fertilise Your Citrus**

Fertilise your citrus now. Citrus are heavy feeders and will respond well to an application of Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus – again, water this in well using GOGO Juice so that the beneficial bacteria and fungi can assist the plants in accessing nutrition and water.

