



March 2023
47 Years of Growth
1976 - 2023



**The March meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on
Wednesday, 8th March, 2023**

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

The speaker for March is Penny Woodward...Speaking on garlic

Congratulations to Dot Haynes on
your Order Of Australia, richly
deserved for your immense
community work.

Committee Members 2023

President: **Pauline Webb**

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Past President: Doug Brewer

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Gardeners All,

What a month of changeable temperatures. - 🌞🌧️ cold enough for heating on one day and air con the next at one stage. No wonder the veggies are on the go slow. Most pickling has been done with bought vegetables this year. Pickled beans, cucumber (bought), celery & onions (mine), etc make good winter eating with veggies at summer prices. Even better if home grown. Now, the cucumbers are starting to grow little fruit! 🥒

👩🏻👨🏻 Avril and I are pleased to announce that after being inundated with offers from volunteers through advertising by Eastern Volunteers, we chose Todd to do the website for our Garden Club. It is UP & FUNCTIONAL. Trevor & Todd will have it on the large screen TV at our meeting to show you all. Alana sat in with us when we met Todd and has offered to update the information as we need her to. The site can be expanded over time to include anything we wish. Todd has accepted an invitation from Avril and I to come to our next meeting.

👩🏻 More good news: Gladys' gym friend Margaret Slater visited us last meeting and joined up with the intention of helping where she can. (Such delightful words to hear.) Margaret has accepted the offer of a spare position on the Committee and will join us next week. Thank you Margaret. 💖 your accountancy skills are heaven sent. 💖

👩🏻 A Silkies Rose - Gra's Blue' - inadvertently left behind, so gifted to us for a Raffle Prize.

This month I have focused the newsletter information on SOIL HEALTH. The many gardening and soil newsletters I read have all had different elements of soil health in them so I have used tit bits of interest, with credit to the source of each, so you can read the larger article where you choose.

At our meeting I will pass around the clipboard for volunteers to help Avril and I on **21st March at the Eastern Volunteers Expo at the Manningham**

DGC Life Members

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

New Members

Hila Frazzetto
Looi Lim
Alana Camilleri
Rebecca & Leslie Holmes

Council Rooms (MC²). The Expo runs from 2-6pm so we need **4** volunteers for an hour each. Avril will do 2-4pm and I will do 4-6pm. We will promote our Garden Club by answering questions and handing out membership forms to interested people.

🌱 There is also the Easter Fair coming up at Bunnings pre Easter, possibly late March. We do not have our Saturday date yet but they donate \$100 in gift vouchers for our help. Likely from 9 or 10am to 1 or 2pm. I think we need a minimum of 6 volunteers to do an hour each. I will know details by the 8th.

It is important for all to know the **rules of our Trading Table**: donations of plants, cuttings to strike, seeds, jams or books, etc are for the benefit of our Club. If you fancy anything, please pay the price asked or offer a gold coin if it is unpriced. Last month when Toni was late and not at the table to take coins some people helped themselves. Please be aware that the funds raised are for benefit of all. A volunteer to assist Toni would be appreciated. We will be making a roster for judging. Most people can take a turn to say what plant, flower, etc they think is best on the night – i.e. personal opinion, so it isn't hard.
Happy Gardening,
Pauline

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

Learn to Worm farm - free class at Edendale Farm

Saturday 1st April, 2pm to 3:30pm.

To book online find Guy Palmer's newsletter www.localfoodconnect.com

Plant Collectors Expo is at Ferny Creek 100 Hilton Rd, Sassafra Mel66E12 on
Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th March. Pauline has brochures. \$10 entry.



February Guest Speakers:

Silkies Roses

Due to potential health issues to Ray, it was decided to go "Chemical Free". They now use a plant management system that includes;

1. Eco oil...as an anti-fungal.
2. Eco Rose (formally known as Eco Fungicide)...as a fungicide.
3. Powdered Seaweed (1 scoop per 10 litres)...as a food.

These 3 products form the basis of their plant care. This is driven by what the weather is doing; for example they will spray to prevent fungal growth if cold, wet weather is predicted.



They also use;

1. Neem oil...to control insects and aphids.
2. Amino Grow...a fish-based food.
3. Slasher...as an herbicide.

Note: all of these products should be available at your local nursery or the big "B".

Also, you might like to "google" individual products to learn about them in more detail.

Dealing with understock shoots, it is important to cut deep to remove thoroughly, otherwise problem will continue to reoccur.

RED HOT TIP

- If you have access to tank water...USE IT...it is best!!!

Next Committee Meeting:	01 March	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Next Meeting:	08 March	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East
Following Committee Meeting:	05 April	hosted by Pauline Webb, 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East
Following Meeting:	12 April	at the RSL Hall, 8pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East

Monthly Meeting: Flower, Plant and Fruit Displays

These were originally called the "show bench" when the club also had competitive flower shows, and an accredited judge made the decisions about the best entries. Nowadays, we want members to bring along flowers, plants, vegetable items and pot plants to monthly meetings to show other members what is growing well in their gardens. Although a plant prize is awarded each month, these can be regarded as encouragement for members to bring something along, without emphasis on competition.

Schedule:

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



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA.
(Victorian Branch Inc.)
DONCASTER RSL SUB - BRANCH (Established 1919)
Cnr Doncaster Rd & Leeds St Doncaster East, Victoria. 3109

INVITATION

LADIES MORNING TEA

**FREE – Tuesday 7th February &
7th March 2023 – 10am to
11.30am**

Bring yourself and friends.

Ladies take a break from the ordinary

We have a homemade morning tea. Come and bring interesting items and stories to share.

We have craft activities for those who want to do something.

Quality coffee from our new machine.

We ask for you to come share with us.

RSVP: Phone: Martha Clarke on **0408 316 935**

Or email: tresdoncasterrsl@gmail.com

Email: csdoncastersubbranch@gmail.com Facebook @ RSL Doncaster Subbranch Phone Secretary: 0425 718 937



MAUREEN AND PAUL LUCAS OPEN GARDEN 2023

Maureen and Paul Lucas will be opening their famous garden on:

1st and 2nd April, 2023 – 10am to 4pm each Day.

64 Timbertop Drive, Rowville, Victoria

Cost \$5 per person – all proceeds to go to the Wheelers Hill Lions Club

Garden books for sale

'Rosemont' was part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme. It is 28 years old, is accredited as a 'Garden for Wildlife' and has many thousands of plants of all descriptions – Roses, natives, shrubs, climbing plants, Collections of Plectranthus, Cacti/Succulents, fruit trees, Spanish courtyard, water features, garden ornaments and much, much more – all growing in an eclectic romantic setting which visitors variously describe as 'wonderful', 'magnificent' and 'so different'.

The garden is divided into a number of 'rooms', any one of which could be inspiration for your own small garden. We welcome people to take our ideas and adapt them to their own gardens. You may take photos as well.

Enquiries: wolfam20@gmail.com



Mensland – 39 The Mall,
Heidelberg West

SEEDS of PLENTY

15% discount when you key the
Discount Code DGC seeds
The discount will be applied to
the invoice at the end.

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



Bunnings Warehouse Doncaster -
Garden Corner

Sessions are FREE, but bookings do
need to be made online at:

[https://www.bunnings.com.au/stores/
vic/doncaster](https://www.bunnings.com.au/stores/vic/doncaster)

(Events will only display maximum 1
month on advance). Tea & Coffee are
included.

Wed 15th Feb at 11.30am – **Lawn Care**

March - Wed 15th March at 11.30am -

Members, this is Maureen Lucas' report re the 2022 AGM and Convention of Garden Clubs Aust. (in October) with whom we are affiliated:

Well, Paul and I are now back from the AGM and Convention in Townsville. There were over 200 members of GCA affiliated clubs from all around the country present for the event. It was fabulous. We saw lots of wonderful private and some public tropical gardens, had very nice food, had an opportunity to meet some lovely people, visited some local tourist spots etc etc.

The next GCA Convention will be at Lake Macquarie in NSW in September next year. Some of the Doncaster Garden Club members may wish to go. Paul and I will be going. That will be our sixth such Convention and everyone of them has been fabulous. I will give you more details as they come to hand, costs, accommodation, transport to and from and so on.

Thank you so much for your very valuable input. I have now been elected to the GCA Board, with the responsibility of running their Annual Awards Programme and looking into reviving their judges programme in conjunction with the AHJA. The first job will be interesting, the second more of a long term goal.

The Awards programme allows for any affiliated club to nominate one of their members or the club itself, who has given outstanding service to horticulture over a period of years. At this stage there are seven different categories but the whole thing needs revamping, and this will be my job. I have jumped in at the deep end so will need to proceed slowly here. Anyhow, the Doncaster Club could start thinking about a suitable candidate for nomination. These are very prestigious awards. I will be coordinating the whole thing but there are an uneven number of anonymous judges who choose the actual winners and I take no part in that bit. Everything needs to be aboveboard and seen to be so.

Kindest regards and many thanks, cheers, Maureen

Preparing for Peas (Allotment Garden Newsletter, England)

Peas, like runner beans, will really benefit from soil preparation. Take out a trench about a spit deep (the depth of your spade blade) and break up the soil below with a fork.

Then put a thick layer of well rotted manure or compost in the trench and return the removed soil to the trench.

The roots will head down to rich layer below and the plants will be more resilient if there's a hot dry summer. Sow and grow along the trench as usual.

Pauline suggests: This advice is different to what we have here where we are told to rake a bucket of compost over the pea bed. It is worth trialling. Crop size is the end decider. The peas should equally have resilience for a cold winter. Also don't forget Seasol and Ponul8 which prevents plant cell



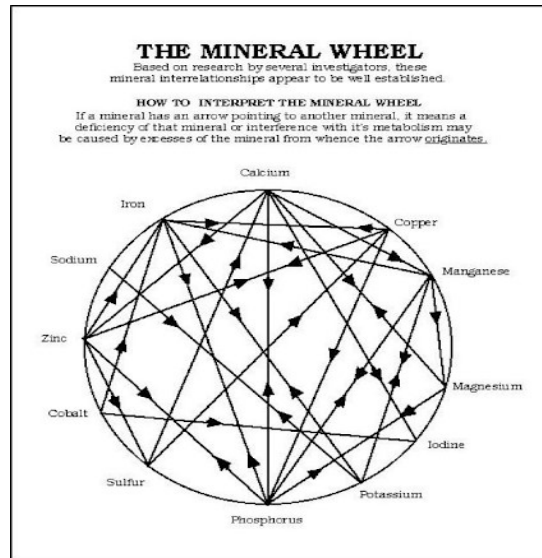
Q: What kind of shoes do private investigators wear?

A: **Sneakers!**

How to correct a mineral deficiency

Manipulating minerals is difficult. Adding one mineral may increase the availability of some and decrease the availability of others (as they interact within a “web”)

Here's a chart of “The Mineral Wheel” for you to get an idea:



Do you see what we mean?

So how do we go about remedying any deficiencies in the soil? By bringing the soil biology back into balance.

This tends to naturally bring mineral deficiencies and surpluses back into an acceptable range (eventually).

Soil biological mycorrhiza and liquid seaweed are sold by many companies now.

As Seasol and Neutrog support our club, we recommend their organic products.

Trading Table Seeds

perpetual spinach
red russian kale
marigold
tagates
garlic chives

Aggregate Winners

—Feb 2023

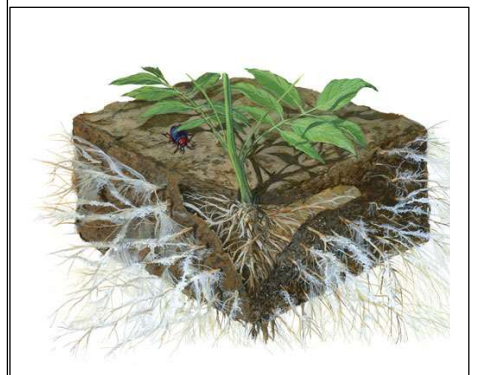
- fruit and veg
- potted plants



SOIL FUNGI

Ten to 20 percent of the sugars a plant produces through photosynthesis are absorbed by the mycorrhizae. In return, the fungus delivers many essential nutrients to the plant and increases drought resistance. Higher crop yields can be the result for gardeners.

(Mother Earth Newsletter)





FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC

Invite you to an illustrated talk by

Liz Fazio

Gardens Victoria: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Wednesday 8 March 2023

7 for 7.30pm

In 2015 Liz founded 'Open Gardens Victoria' (OGV) to fill the void following the financial collapse of Open Gardens Australia. Since then, the organisation has developed into a respected contributor to the horticultural community. Its mission is **"To inspire more people to embrace gardens and gardening as an active ingredient in a good life and a greener community."** Liz will tell us the story and the vision for the future, embellished with many beautiful garden pictures.

Bookings are via TryBooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CGIGX>

Place: MB10, Burnley Campus, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond.

Time: 7 pm drinks & nibbles, 7.30 for

the talk **Cost:** \$10 for Members; \$20 for

Non-members

Parking: available on the Boulevard

NOTE: Cash payments accepted

on the night.

Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc

Friends Of Burnley Gardens Inc 500

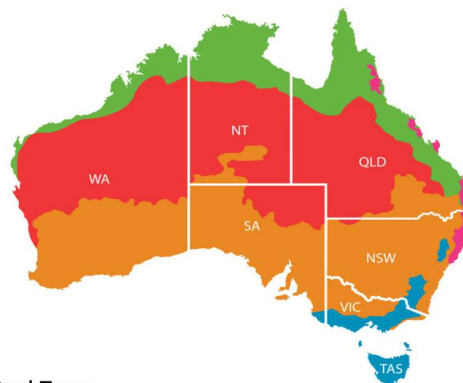
Yarra Boulevard Richmond 3121

ABN: 58 889 973 541

Email:

friends.burnley@gmail.com www.fobg.org.au

March in the Garden



Cool Zone

Includes Melbourne, Tasmania & cool highlands

Fruit & Vegetables	Herbs	Flowers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beetroot Broad Bean Carrot Cauliflower Leek Lettuce Onion Silverbeet Parsnip Spinach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chives Coriander Garlic Mint Oregano Parsley Lemongrass Marjoram Rosemary Tarragon Thyme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alyssum Cineraria Forget Me Not Lupin Pansy Primula Cornflower Cyclamen Poppy Snapdragon Sweet Pea

Watering Citrus in Summer

Citrus trees have a shallow root system and can dry out rapidly during summer. Moisture stress can adversely affect fruit quality and tree health, so it's important to keep the soil or potting mix moist with regular, thorough watering. If you find that the soil is not absorbing the water, no matter how much watering you do, it is time for a feed of compost topped with mulch. Chopped dehydrated seaweed added to soil before the compost also helps as this swells to hold moisture when damp as well as adding Minerals the tree needs.

Soil wetting agents and laundry detergents are from the petroleum industry and therefore are not worm or soil microbe friendly. Gypsum in the soil under the mulch will help especially in our clay soils.



WELL ROTTED MANURE

What is 'Well rotted manure'? (Allotment Garden Newsletter)

I'm often asked how to tell if manure is 'well rotted'. Initially manure will smell like manure and obviously have straw or other bedding material in it. When it is well rotted, composted in other words, it should not smell of manure. The straw should have gone and generally it just looks like dark, rich soil.

Pauline says: if you need manure and straw bedding, there is a Bunny Hotel in Thames St Box Hill where Rebecca gives it away. I have taken her home-made jam and chutney in return for her generosity. If you are interested ring me for address details, phone Rebecca to arrange a time, take a shovel and empty bags (potting mix ones work well) or a trailer to bring it home and build a compost pile with it, watering it well as you go, or add it to a big container to make