



September 2024  
1976-2024  
48<sup>th</sup> year of growth



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### Up Coming Events

- The **September** meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

#### **September Speaker**

Kristen Stewart on Worm Farming.

A worm farm donated as a lucky door prize

#### **October Speaker**

John Harris on Habitat gardening in the backyard

- Roseville Hanging Basket Competition 31<sup>st</sup> October
- Kevin Heinze Grow, Annual Plant Fair 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Yarra Valley Plant Fair 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October

### D G C Life Members

Gerda van der Peet  
Elsie Carter

Ted Page  
Toni Myers

Doug Brewer  
Bev Turner

Joanne Driver  
Gayle McCann

Ken Beer  
Franziska Kung



### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Gardeners All,

Our Christmas Meeting on Wednesday 11th December is officially being held at the Domaine Restaurant in Victoria St. There is room for the raffle, the Peranakan (Chinese Malaysian traditional) Dancers with our Esther starring, plus there will be disabled parking for those who are too frail OR with limitations like recent surgery. Thanks to all present at the last meeting who gave the idea a unanimous vote! Cost \$30 each.

Avril and I attended and enjoyed the Preston Garden Club's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration tonight, 28<sup>th</sup>. There was one family who had been represented there the whole 90 years! The Preston Mayor spoke as did a number of other people briefly. A video was made showing Melbourne in 1934. The cars were an eye opener as was the horse drawn lawn mower in a Melbourne park.

The Ryset Order should go in this weekend and those with orders will be contacted when it is picked up and sorted into each person's order.

The birds are nesting and the spring flowers are out. It might be officially winter as I write but it has been a warm one with the August temperature 1.5 degrees above average for the 2nd year in a row. The rain has been patchy with the Maryborough district and NE Victoria very dry. The farmers in South Gippsland are anticipating a long hot summer.

**Continued next page**

In the garden: my tomato seedlings are pricked out and transplanted to 50mm pots, lettuce and dill seeds are in punnets, all on a hot mat. The beetroot and Kohl rabi are finished. We have had a small 2amount of snow peas but the plants were affected with viral spots and died from the base due to the extra wet July. Small carrots are ready. - I wish I was more successful with root crops. Today, 29th, I transplanted beetroot seedlings and a Dill plant for seed for pickles at the end of summer. The flowers bring the good insects too. I have 2 large radish (French Breakfast and China Rose) left in the beds to grow seed for next year. The Plum tree is magnificent in full flower.

Sweet potato plants will be brought to the Trading Table next meeting to be planted out when warmer.

Can those who buy plants please return the washed pots to me if not needed. The right sizes are hard to find in the used pot bins at the nurseries.

In the kitchen: The last of the Bok Choy is chopped and in the freezer; kale is cooked with bacon and onion and frozen. On a hot mat, silverbeet greens are fermenting and their stalks and some kohlrabi leaf and bulb are fermenting in another jar. All with spices. Trevor is still eating pickled whole tomatoes, Jerusalem artichoke and cucumber from summer. I have been picking asparagus for 3 weeks. It too is early.

2-4pm Friday 13th September is our Club Connect at Domaine. Please all come for the viewing of a residence and afternoon tea. It is wisdom to know what is available ahead of needing to know for a friend or oneself. It is difficult to visit retirement residences or villages if one has already has the need to downsize. Some things are best known in advance - far less stressful.

Happy Gardening,

Pauline

## August speaker Review.

A most informative presentation from Kaye on Queensland Fruit Fly. QFF sense when the weather is warming and start their destructive cycle. Hence we must start now to overcome the problem, set your traps and baits or specialist nets to ensure you are helping to control this pest. They can affect over 300 types of fruit trees. If you are unsure of your plan of attack, Kaye suggests you consult your local nursery, they will have the knowledge and supplies to help. There is also lots of information on the internet.

Some helpful tips from Kaye.

- Prune your fruit trees to a manageable height... you should be able to view it from all aspects.
- Keep the base of your trees clear/clean. Rake up old leaves and apply fresh compost/mulch. Clear all rotting fruit... do not leave it laying on the ground. It becomes a lure for QFF.
- Do not compost rotting fruit. Do not put it in your garden bin. You can put it in a plastic bag and leave it in the sun for several days to kill any QFF within, then dispose of. You can also burn the fruit, if you have the means.
- Home-made lure; 1cup OJ/peach pulp, 2 cups ammonia, add to disposable drink bottle, remove lid and hang in your tree. (there are many "recipes" on line).
- Do not plant under trees within the dripline.
- Water your trees from the dripline, to avoid splashing the trunk of your tree.



## August Competition Table

Well done Leoniza Rosero, your cyclamen is trully stunning.

Bring your Bulbs and/or spring flowers for our September Competition Table (that is if the wind hasn't destroyed them all!!)



## What to Plant in September in Melbourne

### FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Beetroot  
Broccoli  
Cabbage  
Carrot  
Cauliflower  
Celery  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Leek  
Onion  
Shallot

### HERBS

Silver beet  
Spinach  
Spring Onion  
Strawberry  
Sweet Corn  
Zucchini  
Tomato  
Basil  
Coriander  
Chives  
Dill  
Mint  
Oregano  
Parsley  
Sage  
Thyme

### FLOWERS

Alyssum  
Begonia  
Carnation  
Chrysanthemum  
Cockscomb  
Coleus  
Cornflower  
Cosmos  
Dahlia  
Dianthus  
Impatiens  
Lobelia  
Marigold  
Petunia  
Salvia  
Snapdragon  
Verbena  
Zinnia

### HOT TIP

Pauline suggests it may not yet be warm enough in Melbourne to start cucumber, eggplant, sweetcorn, zucchini, tomato and Dahlia

## EXTRA ARTICLES FROM PAULINE

### • Attendance Book

Will all members and Visitors please sign the **Attendance Book** so all can be accounted for in case of an EMERGENCY.

### • Growing Zucchini

When **Growing Zucchini**, these hungry crops need a lot of nutrients to develop into strong plants that produce an abundance of flowers and fruits through the summer. Zucchini plants are often very prolific and develop lots of fruits, but that level of abundance requires lots of nutrients to make it happen.

1. At planting - add compost and pelleted chicken manure ( ie Rooster Booster or equivalent)
2. At first flowers - feed again. Pauline suggests Neutrog Gigantic for fruit and veg.

<https://www.homesandgardens.com/gardens/how-to-fertilize-zucchini#:~:text=When%20growing%20zucchini,make%20it%20happen.>

### • Terrific Tomatoes





- **Setting up a worm farm; Saturday, 12th October, 2-3.30pm; FREE; Edendale.**

Learn how to set up a worm farm and the easiest methods to manage and care for these most hard-working of creatures. This workshop will cover both the theory and practice of worm farming in a household setting. It will be useful for those wishing to recycle household food waste in order to produce worm products for use in the improvement of soil in gardens and pot plants. Discounted worm farms will be available for sale on the day. (LFC Newsletter)

- **Kevin Heinze Grow Fair Victoria St Doncaster Saturday 12th October.**

There will be a wide variety of heirloom tomato seedlings for sale. Plus, food, fun crafts, games, horticulture activities and a scavenger hunt.

- **Growing Sweet Potatoes**

- What I do is I've always got a runner (a mother plant in the garden that I leave in all the time). In the spring I take cuttings (about 10 -20 cm) and plant them in new bed about every 20cm apart, each one goes into a hole made by a stick.
- After a couple of weeks, I replace any that haven't taken.
- During spring and summer, I keep cutting back the runners to avoid layering and send the energy down to the roots. I also fertilise them with a home-made liquid fertiliser made from comfrey, nettle and seaweed.
- We then harvest through autumn and winter as we need
- How do you prepare the soil?
- I always try to protect microbial activity in my soil, so I use a broad fork to aerate it ( to create more space for oxygen, water and root development).
- I then add a layer of compost and mix it slightly with the topsoil, when I have some worm castings ready I add that to my compost (about 10%) and some trace elements (I use No Frills rock dust, locally made )
- Finally, I add approximately 5 to 10 cm layer of wood chips to protect the soil.
- ([Fairharvest.com.au](http://Fairharvest.com.au))

This is a good article for Sweet Potato Growing in Margaret River WA.

1. As it is colder here, I find planting can be as late as November. One is waiting on soil temperature being at least 18deg and warmer nights.
2. We also need to keep our pieces across winter on the hot mat until established then in a very protected spot as the cold kills both the mother plant and cutting.
3. I have never planted as close as this lady does. I do 30cm/12 inches. I think they have looser soil than our heavy ones.
4. I like the idea of the comfrey, nettle and seaweed fertiliser - possibly lots of potash and phosphorus.
5. I might try the wood chip mulch instead of sugar cane or pea straw.
6. In Melbourne, we harvest when the plant dies back. Due to the shorter hot weather the tubers are usually not mature enough to take earlier. Pauline

- **Sweet Potato Brownie**

**Ingredients**

1 cup of mashed sweet potato  
1 1/2 (1 can) cups cooked black beans  
1 cup almond meal  
1/2 cup coconut oil  
4 eggs  
1/4 cup cacao  
2 tbs honey  
1/2 cup walnuts (optional)

**Method**

Put all ingredients (except walnuts) in the blender, add walnuts last so they keep their crunch.  
Bake in a moderate oven for one hour or until cooked.

To make it completely vegan replace the eggs with aquafaba (chickpea water) and the honey with your favourite sweetener.

Growing Sweet Potato"

<https://www.fairharvest.com.au/sweet->

## Committee Members

**2024**

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**Pauline Webb**

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Secretary:

**Avril Clark**

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**Gladys Lim**

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**Dr Margaret Salter**

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**Doug Brewer**

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**Anita Luzzu**

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Newsletter:

**Linda Speirs**

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**Toni Myers**

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**Esther Sim**

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**Ray Brett**

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## September Supper Roster



Will 3 people please ring Pauline and offer to help.

### Comedy Corner

I feel sorry for wheelbarrows.  
They're always getting pushed around!!



## Recyclabes

A reminder to those who can collect any empty recyclabe bottles or cans. This is an easy way to generate some cash to cover our increasing costs, especially as Gladys is doing the hard work for us. To date we have raised \$62.00



The DGC wishes to express condolences to Franzisca on the passing of her husband, Joe.

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