



June 2024
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48 years of growth



Contact Details

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Up Coming Meetings

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

Wednesday 12th June 2024

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

June Speaker	July Speaker
Kathleen Tants will speak on Pruning Roses	A representative from MCC will speak to us about FOGO



ROSE

Roses are known as the 'Queen of Flowers', loved and treasured all over the world. This woody perennial flowering plant is admired and grown for its beauty and fragrance.

You have the choice to plant potted roses year-round or bare-rooted roses from now until the end of July. Roses prefer a rich, loamy soil or a high-quality potting mix, and a feed with **Sudden Impact for Roses** every eight to ten weeks throughout the growing season.

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
Francesca Kung		



Supper Roster



Hilda Frazetto
Leoniza Rosero
Nola Chan
Reinhard Stratemeyer

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Gardener's, All,

What a different month with only 25.7mm rain by 20th May against 165mm for the same time in April. It has been cloudier and colder, yet the BOM says it is warm due to the stationary high-pressure areas sitting over us keeping the colder southerlies away. The sunny afternoons are about to become cloud and rain again.

My autumn-winter bed preparation and planting has gone on slowly. 2 large beds remain to be prepared. I dug 2 beds of 3 of sweet potatoes to find no formed root crop at all, likely due to the short summer with very erratic temperatures and not being a reasonable constant heat. Just as well the leaf had been harvested zealously for 2 months for stir fry - so not a complete failure.

The potatoes are shooting, and I have mounded old straw around them to break down and for insulation. There are more potatoes to plant when beds are ready. Bought Broccolini seedlings looked weak so are in individual pots to grow on to an appropriate size to transplant. My home-grown cauliflower seedlings are transplanted and the last 6-7 garlic cloves. More peas have been planted. The 2 sunnier weeks have coloured the oranges more so look promising. The fig trees and plum are waiting to be pruned to shape them. The fig will take a harder prune as the fruit grows on the newest wood and the green figs will be prepared with a heavy syrup recipe I have.

I am picking garlic chives, rosemary, bunching onion tops, a little celery, the last pumpkin of a good crop, silver beet, celtuce leaf and kale - all in small quantities. The 1st choko on an 18-month vine has been eaten with lots more to come if the sun stays and there are no frosts.

Last week I received an invitation from Tobin Brothers Funerals in Doncaster Rd for Doncaster Garden Club to attend their 90th Birthday Celebration in return for their Sponsorship. So, on the 29th April, Gladys Trevor and myself spent part of the afternoon with 4 other community groups hearing a short, interesting history of a 4th generation family business and enjoying delicious chicken or egg sandwiches and the most spectacular, delicious petite fours I have ever seen. For our efforts I was presented with a \$700 cheque for the Doncaster Garden Club. I was then given a short interview by a man from the radio station Magic 1278. This will be played in a add break in a day or 2 and maybe again next year.



Our Dine Out at Domaine Village Restaurant on 29th with 19 people present was an enjoyable night with good plates of delicious food and wine. The dinner was hosted by Michael Gill who some of us have met previously. Our APRECIATION and THANKS to Aveo Domaine per Michael for the surprise of the night - they covered the whole bill for dinner. A generous gesture because we have accepted to be part of their Club Connect programme. There was also a complimentary raffle, won by Gladys: a boxed cheese board, bottle of Shiraz, marble coasters and a photo album.

Another exciting news event is the chat April and I had with Ted Page re his gardening history (for the 50th Birthday Booklet by April) which started before Ted was 9, explaining "it was my responsibility to grow the vegetables". Ted had to run into the street to collect horse manure if the delivery horse left any, then at 9 he was evacuated from London in the blitz of WWII to Scotland where he was made to work picking up potatoes, to growing veg when older, and coming to Australia to find DGC in the late 80s. Apart from Ken Beer, Ted is our next member of longest years.

If you were in the Club before Ted, please let me know.

The Ryset Order will go in on the 30th, so may be available on Club night. I will contact those with orders when I know the delivery date. I will also include the amount owing.... PLEASE BRING YOUR MONEY on Meeting night.



Happy Gardening when the sun is out.

May Competition Table

Toni won the May competition with her healthy hazelnuts



Our June competition Table “Special Items”

Will be **Wattle** and **Camelias**

A reminder to those who have empty bottles and cans that can be recycled. Gladys has volunteered to return these for cash into our bank account. So far, she has deposited **236** bottles a total of **\$23.60**. Let's keep this going and a big thanks to Gladys.



Our May Speaker

Matthew King from Ryset



Matthew gave a most interesting talk on a selection of tools from his business. Many of his high-quality tools are supplied to vineyards in Victoria. He generously donated a daisy weeder and 2 pairs of secateurs, sharpener, and pouch for our Raffle table and all the products he bought were available for sale at wholesale prices on the night.

Matthew discussed the differences between anvil and bypass secateurs: - Bypass for soft green stems and anvils for finger width wood. He also demonstrated different brands of loppers for bigger branches as well as a neat folding saw.

To maintain your tools, wash off any dirt or sap after use and dry thoroughly. Always use a Ryset sharpener on your cutting tools after every use.

The talk was well received, and sales were brisk after the meeting!

What to Plant in June in Melbourne

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Asparagus
Beetroot
Blackberries
Broad Bean
Broccoli
Cabbage
Carrot
Cauliflower
Celery
Chinese Cabbage
Endive

Leek
Lettuce
Onion
Peas
Silver beet
Snow Peas
Spinach
Radish
Raspberry

HERBS

Chives
Garlic
Mint
Parsley
Shallots
Thyme

FLOWERS

Alyssum
Cineraria
Cornflower
Cyclamen
Delphinium
English daisy
Foxglove
Hollyhock
Larkspur
Lobelia
Lupin

Nemesia
Pansy
Polyanthus
Poppy
Primula
Ranunculus
Snapdragon
Stock
Sweet Pea
Viola

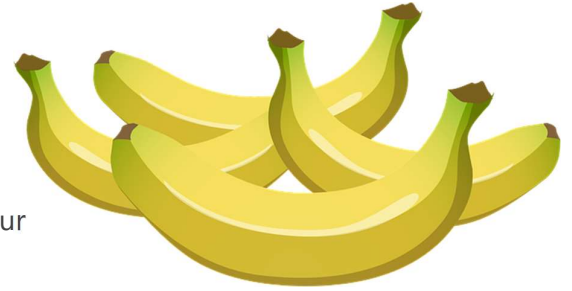
Some suggestions from Pauline

How to Use Bananas to Control Aphids

1. Banana Peel Mulch

Method: Chop up banana peels into small pieces and bury them 1-2 inches deep around the base of the affected plants.

Benefit: As the peels decompose, they release nutrients that enhance soil fertility, which can improve plant health and resilience against pests like aphids. For more tips on utilizing bananas in your garden, check out unlocking the benefits of hanging an overripe banana in your garden.



2. Banana Peel Spray

Preparation: Soak banana peels in a jar of water, covering it with a lid, and let it sit for 48 hours.

Application: Strain the water and pour it into a spray bottle. Spray the mixture directly onto the plants where aphids are present.

Benefit: The spray helps repel aphids and can reduce their populations without the use of harsh chemicals.

3. Attracting Natural Predators

Technique: Place chopped banana peels on a small tray or directly on the soil surface near the affected plants.

Benefit: Banana peels attract insects like ladybugs and lacewings, which are natural predators of aphids.

Additional Tips for Using Bananas in the Garden

Consistency: Regularly replace the banana peels every few weeks to ensure they remain effective in deterring aphids.

Compost: After their use, add old banana peels to your compost bin to continue benefiting your garden soil.

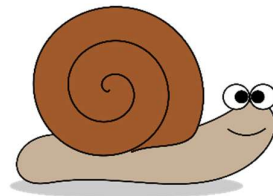
Learn more about composting banana peels from the science of composting banana peels.

Monitor Plants: Keep an eye on your plants for any signs of aphid attack.

SNAIL DETERENT

Add 1 capful of vinegar to water with chilli powder and green onions.

(Sorry no quantities or instructions.....give it a go and let us know)



WOOD ASH MIXTURE (FOR ROOTING)

500g wood ash

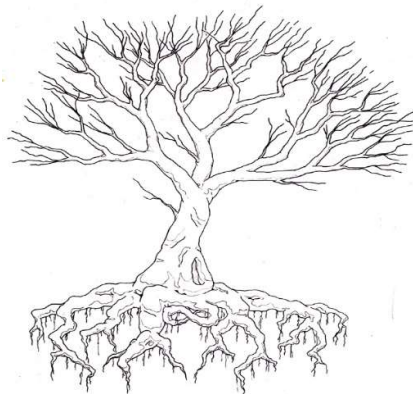
1.8 oz (50g) brown sugar

1.3 gallons (6 litres) water

Mix and sit for 24 hours

Filter out residue.

Water plants.



Committee Members

2024

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Pauline Webb

Ph; 0409 063 060

Secretary:

Avril Clark

Ph; 0402478302

Vice President

Gladys Lim

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Fund Raising Co-ordinator

Anita Lizza

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Ray Brett

Now that winter is upon us, a nourishing bowl of chicken soup after a stint in the garden is just what we need.

I am including this recipe upon request.

CHICKEN, LEEK AND OAT SOUP

Ingredients

50g butter.

2 leeks washed and diced.

2 carrots peeled and diced.

2 celery sticks, diced.

2 litres chicken stock. (home made is best and worth the effort)

100g rolled oats. (about 2 large handfuls)

Shredded meat from ¼ cooked chicken.

Handful of chopped parsley

Method

Heat butter in a large saucepan and gently fry the leeks, carrots, and celery until very soft but not brown. The longer and slower you do this, the better your soup will be. Rush it and it will be good, but unlikely to be great.

Add the stock and oats and cook until the oats are softened, about 10-20 minutes.

A big rapid boil for a few minutes helps the butter to emulsify into the soup. Season, add the chicken and parsley simmer for a further 2-3 minutes.

Serve

Comedy Corner

I'm not aging.

I just need
repotting



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

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