



September 2023
47 years of growth
1976-2023



Contact Details

Email;

doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Web address;

www.doncastergardenclubaus.com

Upcoming meetings:

The Doncaster Garden Club Committee meeting will be held on
Wednesday 6th September 2023
8:00 pm at 11 Inglewood Close, Doncaster East.

The September meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on
Wednesday 13th September 2023

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

The speaker for September is Julie Kos, on Smoked Eggs.

October Meeting - Subject: BEES IN THE GARDEN Speaker: Seila Hierk

Committee Members 2023

President:

Pauline Webb

Ph; 0409 063 060

Secretary:

Avril Clark

Ph; 0402478302

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Fund Raising Co-ordinator

Anita Lizza

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Ray Brett

Gladys Lim



Dates to Remember

- 1.. **Saturday 30th September, 2:30 pm - Coffee at Harndhorffs** in Blackburn Rd at Donburn Shops just north of George St intersection. If you have one of their 'free coffee' cards, come and use it or pay as usual. They hand out a free chocolate with every coffee or hot chocolate! Names to be taken for booking purposes at the meeting.
- 2.. **Open GARDEN Saturday 28th October 2:30pm at Avril's - her address next month.**
- 3.. **Wednesday 8th November DGC 37th Birthday celebration at the RSL Hall.**

Forthcoming AGM

Our Annual General meeting is held every November. Annual subscriptions will also be due in that month. For the next couple of months, we will be discussing the Office holders' functions as well as the functions of the other Committee members.

In 1982 the Club Committee positions included the following: President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, two Committee members, Librarian and Newsletter Editor. 9 Committee members in total.

In 2023 we have 10 Committee members which are: President, Vice President (vacant), Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Fundraising Coordinator, Speakers Officer and 3 general positions.

DGC September President's Report

Hello Gardeners All,

The extra hours of sunlight and days a little warmer in August have been a blessing to plants and people alike. My baby carrots and snow peas have commenced 'fruiting' and the bok choy and kale are mostly out, the kale having become a sacrificial crop for the aphids as they were no longer producing due to age. Having a sacrificial plant or 3 prevents the aphids spreading to other plants. It is usually unhealthy plants which are infested.

I made up the dishwasher tablets (recipe in July Newsletter). 32 in number. They hold together well enough if one treats them carefully. They are doing an excellent wash of the plates, etc at 1 per wash. Very economical if you are trying to save money at present as the ingredients, when bought, will do a number of batches.

Dinner at the Templestowe Hotel on 30th was a great way to continue build our friendships. The Seniors' meals seemed to be huge for \$20 and came with dessert but some mains were very inadequate so was a disappointing experience. Then there was their harsh policy of not being allowed remove leftovers in a doggy bag, one member being aggressively accused of doing so when it was actually a gift of pickles from another member! Also, I was not allowed to take my strict allergy free diet meal to the venue but told to 'eat before I come!' This is not good enough when a group of 17 of us gave them business of about \$400. Our joint decision was that next time we will be elsewhere.

Our Garden Club year is starting to wind down but there is still much work for the Committee. In 2 meetings time **8th November**, it will be **our AGM**. New Committee Members will be needed to replace those resigning or failing to gain enough votes. It is also a chance for fresh members to be given an opportunity to see how we function. This is a short term of one year and is not a scary thing (if you have no experience of meetings or meeting etiquette). Being on a Committee is a learning experience and educates one for something else in your life. The only requirement is an eagerness to help the Club, be prepared for small tasks and usually, be available to come a bit earlier to help set up the Hall. Our meetings always end with a supper and another hour of camaraderie for those who stay.

A couple of months ago 2 of our members were entered for **Awards** - one with the Council and the other with Garden Clubs Australia. It is almost time for hearing the results and it is exciting waiting. More next month.

Happy Gardening,
Pauline

Comedy Corner

So my neighbour sees
me kneeling down,
busy in my garden and
asks what I'm doing
"I'm putting all my
plants in alphabetical
order"
"Really?! I don't know
how you find the
time!"
"It's right next to the
sage"



Gardener
Wanted

Must look
good
bending
over!!

A BLAST FROM OUR PAST

The following is an extract from the Club Newsletter of October 1982

A Brief history of the Doncaster Garden Club.

It is not generally recognised that Fred Jeffs was the initiator in the founding of the Doncaster Garden Club. Fred's idea in the mid 70's was to form a group called the Doncaster Horticultural Society. With this in mind he was able to convene a public meeting under the chairmanship of the late Councillor Muriel Green at the Doncaster and Templestowe Council Chambers in August, 1976. At this first meeting Neil Williams and Cheree Blyth of the Waverley Garden Club spoke on the reasons for running a garden club to a small audience which included amongst others Maurie Kellett, Max McDowall (S.G.A.P.), and Fred himself.

As a result of this initial gathering it was decided to hold regular monthly meetings at the Atheneum Hall which Fred advertised a number of times in the local papers under the heading "GROW WITH US". These meetings were attended by some of our present members, including Maurie (who gave a talk on Mexico), Fred, Margaret Walton, Joe Orders, Ivy Johnson and the Mahlers.

On the 27th November, 1977 a meeting was held at Ivy Johnson's, Kara Street, E. Doncaster, to officially form the Club. By a consensus of the opinions of the founding members it was decided that a more appropriate name would be the Doncaster Garden Club. A committee was formed and the first minutes record that Maurie Kellett was President, Ivy Johnson Secretary, Margaret Jones Treasurer, Margaret McCarthy Asst. Sec./Newsletter Editor, and some of the other elected committee members were Fred Jeffs and Dorothy Mahler.

Fred Jeffs is to be commended for persevering over some years in his efforts to found a general gardening club in our municipality. D.J. Mahler

Controlling Aphids

Are aphids wreaking havoc on your garden oasis? Fear not, because you'll discover how to harness the power of vinegar and send those tiny intruders packing. Get ready to reclaim your garden and watch your plants flourish once more!

Step 1 – Preparing the Solution

Step one in your aphid-fighting journey is to prepare the vinegar solution. To create your mixture, grab a spray bottle and fill it with 1 cup white vinegar, 3 cups of water, and two to 3 drops of mild dish soap.

Once it's ready, give it a gentle shake, and move on to step two.

Step 2 – Applying the Vinegar

Spray the vinegar mixture directly onto the areas where aphids are present. Be thorough in your application to ensure you leave no corner untouched. Cover both the top and bottom surfaces of the leaves, as aphids are notorious for hiding on the undersides."

<https://www.backyardboss.net/how-to-use-vinegar-to-kill-aphids/#:~:text=Are%20aphids%20wreaking,on%20the%20undersides>



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		



New Members

Kim Harrington
Reinhardt Stratemeyer

Our August Speaker

Weren't we lucky to enjoy the enthusiasm of **Andrew Fernandez** speaking to us on his passion for orchids. Not many of us would have over 3,000 orchids growing at home in glass houses with heaters, foggers, heat mats and air conditioning!!!

These are the highlights I took away to share with you all, that just might help us with our own orchids;

*Orchids are a member of the vanilla family.

* Cut in half, they create a mirror image.

*Tips for growing;

Water regularly, making sure it drains well.

Fertilize regularly, a weak solution weekly. Using Seasol, Osmocote or liquid orchid fertilizer. Potassium will boost flowering.

In hot weather, water more often. You can even sit them in a shallow saucer of water on very hot days.

In winter decrease watering to once a week at night time

*Repotting;

Use a medium bark potting mix.

Add lime to your potting mix to keep the ph stable.

Separate all the dead growth and bin it.

You should keep 3-4 new bulbs per new plant.

Tear away excess roots...be brutal.

Plant towards the back of the pot, allowing new growth to move across the pot.

Make sure the pot is not too big, fill with potting mix, bulbs should sit just above soil line.

Sterilize cutting tools between every plant potting.

*Position, Winter, full sun. Summer, morning sun only.



August Competition Table

The cut flower competition was won by

Joan Middleton

with her flawless bunch of white camelias.



The September competitions is
"Potted Plants"

ATTENTION PLEASE

31st October is our end of financial year. This is when **fees are due for our 2023-24 year**. We will be requiring these from each of you at the October and November meetings. Those who have not paid are not eligible to attend the December meeting and entertainment. Our Treasurer, Dr Margaret Salter will accept both cash or credit on those nights. If you wish to do direct banking, our account number will be made available from next month.

Single, \$25. Family, \$35



Gardening in Containers

(From Mother Earth Newsletter May, 2023)

The problem with growing food in pots is that pots dry out quickly and it's all too easy to forget to water. Irregular watering causes all sorts of problems for sensitive fruits and vegetables. Container gardening is also water-intensive. During a heat wave it may mean visiting the plants with the watering can two or even three times every day — obviously not a practical scheme for someone who works away from home, or someone with any kind of life at all.



An elegant solution exists in the form of self-watering containers. Rather than having a hole in the bottom of the pot, a self-watering container (SWC) has a reservoir of water at the bottom, and water leaches upward into the soil by various mechanisms, keeping it constantly moist. The top of the pot is covered with a layer of plastic that discourages evaporation. Depending on how deep the water reservoir is, it's possible to go about a week between fill-ups. This arrangement, combined with the plastic layer, prevents both over-watering

and under-watering that can occur with conventional pots. In other words, it takes the guesswork and anxiety out of watering.

Pauline says to google DIY self-watering pots for a more economical version than bought ones. Caution: plastic needs to be food grade and UV resistant to last more than 1-2 years. I recommend mulch not plastic to stop evaporation.

What to Plant in September in Melbourne

<u>Fruit and vegetables</u>	<u>Herbs</u>	<u>Flowers</u>
Beetroot Broccoli Cabbage Carrot Cauliflower Celery Cucumber Eggplant Leek Onion Shallot Silverbeet Spinach Strawberry Sweetcorn Zucchini Tomato	Basil Coriander Chives Dill Mint Oregano Parsley Sage Thyme	Alyssum Begonia Carnation Chrysanthemum Cockscomb Coleus Cornflower Cosmos Dahlia Dianthus Impatiens Lobelia Marigold Petunia Salvia Snappdragon Verbena

Enjoy A Day Out with Open Gardens...October 1, 2023

Open Gardens Victoria is delighted to offer garden lovers a Spring Sunday treat: the chance to visit three very different private gardens in **Wonga Park**, **Lilydale** and **Gruyere** opening on 1 October 2023. Dotted along a 25 km trail, from the edge of Manningham City Council into the Yarra Ranges Shire, each garden will demonstrate how gardeners and designers rise to the challenges of different and sometimes difficult sites.

The Elms (Wonga Park) - a spectacular, well-established garden stretching across 10 acres in Wonga Park, created by landscape designer **Jim Fogarty**. With peaceful expansive spaces bursting with spring colour, the garden's focal point is a stunning lake created by **Phillip Johnson**, multi-award-winning landscape designer and the genius behind the new **Chelsea Australia Garden** at Olinda. Surrounded by large boulders, it is home to many aquatic birds, fish, and plants. Vistas capture interest and provide views to the hills of the Yarra Valley. **Also open on Monday 2 October.**

Orvieto (Lilydale) - a gardener's passions for alpine and woodland plants are artistically combined in this garden overlooking the Dandenongs. Set on a very steep yet well-planned one-acre site, Orvieto is richly textured with a diverse range of contrasting foliage plants accented with well-placed pots and an unexpected collection of conifers ranging from tiny specimens to immense mature cedars and spruces.

Grevillea Rise (Gruyere) - a charming Yarra Valley garden with predominantly native plantings and stunning views across the Warramates to Healesville and the Kinglake Ranges. The rear garden features a 1.8km recycled boardwalk that follows an extensive dry creek bed.

Links to website event pages:

- **The Elms** - <https://opengardensvictoria.org.au/The-Elms>
- **Orvieto** - <https://opengardensvictoria.org.au/Orvieto-2023>
- **Grevillea Rise** - <https://opengardensvictoria.org.au/Grevillea-Rise>

Orange Marmalade Muffins

Ingredients

4 cups plain flour	½ cup sugar
2 tbsp baking powder	½ cup butter
2 cups marmalade	1 cup orange juice
1 tspn vanilla extract	2 eggs

Topping

¾ cup sugar	1 tspn cinnamon
1 tspn nutmeg	1tbsp(heaped), melted butter

Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Grease muffin pans

Mix flour, sugar and baking powder. Rub through butter till resembling fine breadcrumbs (or process in a blender briefly).

Mix marmalade, orange juice, vanilla and beaten eggs together. Add to dry ingredients and combine...do not over mix. Divide among muffin pans.

Combine all topping ingredients and sprinkle over top of muffins

Bake for 20-22 minutes until golden. Remove from pans and allow to cool. Eat warm or at room temperature.

September

Supper Roster

Ray Brett
Hilda Frazetto
Edward Page
Mirella Page



Supporters and Sponsors



SEEDS *of* PLENTY

15% discount when you key the Discount
Code DGCseeds

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



Dolce Mio
Pasticceria & Gelateria



DONVALE
FLOWER GALLERY

Mensland
- 39 The Mall,
Heidelberg West



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.

Please support our supporters, let them know you are a member of DGC and appreciate how they help us.



