



November 2024 48 Years of Growth 1976 - 2024



Life Members

Gerda Van der Peet
Elsie Carter
Edward Page
Toni Myers
Doug Brewer

Contact Email: doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Web Address: www.doncastergardenclubaus.com

**The next DGC committee meeting will be held on
6 November 2024 8pm at 11 Inglewood Close Doncaster East**

**The next DGC meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 November 2024
8pm at the RSL Hall, cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East**

The December Meeting is our Christmas Dinner Party At Domaine Restaurant.

Life Members

Bev Turner
Joanne Driver
Gayle McCann
Ken Beer
Franziska Kung

Committee Members 2024

President:

Pauline Webb
0409 063 060
pauline.pw25@gmail.com

Vice-President & Speaker Bookings:

Vacant

Secretary:

Avril Clark
0402 478 302
doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Dr. Margaret Salter

Fund Raising Co-Ordinator:

Anita Luzzza

Newsletter:

Vacant

Kitchen Co-Ordinator:

Ray Brett

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Hello Gardener's All,

November is our **Birthday month**, our **Award night** and the **Annual General Meeting**:

Re the **Birthday**. Our Club will be 48 years of helping gardener's both learn to grow or be better growers as well as a social group for those who like gardens.

**The Committee are proud to announce that we put forward Edward Page for the GCA Doris Killian Award which he has amazingly WON!
CONGRATULATIONS EDWARD!**

The **Annual General Meeting** starts at 8pm. Please have your **fees paid** so you can vote. The Committee are providing a **Celebration cake** for the evening's Supper.

I have had 55.5mm rain for October. Fortunately the heavy storms brought half of the downpours predicted. I have weeded while the soil is soft, pulling up finished brassicas (Kale, Broccolini and Chinese Cabbage) that went to seed. We did use the leaves which have been make into Kraut with herbs and carrot. So many plants have gone to seed early with the warmth of August and September. The shallots I saved from last year and planted in April have not done well. and were pulled with no crop. Possibly too much rain and nutrients washed out. The garlic picked up with extra feeding but one lot sprouted and started growing and with the other the tops collapsed and I pulled them to find they had not separated into cloves. They will be skinned and frozen! My soil was measuring 17deg on the 20th in the wicking beds so I am ready to plant corn, sweet potato and tomatoes as the soil warms a bit more. I also have 2 zucchini looking for a snug spot. The cucumbers seeds are up and ready to be planted.

The tomato seedlings waiting to be transplanted have grown well this last 2 weeks. I just need time in the garden when these and the zucchini, beans and pumpkins will go in. The white flowering 7 year bean (Lima, I think) is already flowering.

Wednesday December 11th end of year celebration: This is at Domaine Village Restaurant at 6-9:30pm, 37-43 Victoria St, Doncaster East, at the pedestrian lights, not far from the Lutheran Church. Disabled parking is available for those who need it. Let me know so I can give Craig Green the numbers, (Michael Gill is no longer at Aveo), otherwise park in the street. It is well lit.

ENTERTAINMENT is by Esther and her Parakan friends (she promises not to catch covid this time ☺). The BIG RAFFLE will also be as normal.

I will send round the clipboard for the names of all going. Also feel free to ring or sms me if you miss the meeting this month. I give final numbers to Craig on Tuesday 29th November for catering purposes.

Cash \$30 each on the night to be collected by Dr Margaret Salter. This meal is normally \$45. We have a bargain. Wine and softdrink on each table.

Happy Gardening, Pauline



<p>Avril's October Speaker Review:</p> <p>Unfortunately, our speaker for October was unable to come at the last moment but we were fortunate to have his friend Ray McMahon in the audience and he volunteered to talk to us off the cuff!</p> <p>We went on a fascinating journey meeting butterflies, frogs, insects, mammals and birds in their natural habitats. Ray told us how important it was, also, to have a wide variety of flowering plants in the garden - herbs, salvias, medium sized shrubs, trees - to provide diverse habitats for all these creatures. Ray also suggested we keep lists and photos of what we see. The funniest anecdote was about the wombat who had a trail under his house and the noise of the wombat bumping on the floor joists as it moved along the path! It became especially noisy when this wombat was joined by another and there was a real party under the house!</p> <p>Thank you so much Ray for stepping in at the last moment and giving us a most entertaining talk.</p>	<p>Visit to Bickleigh Vale open gardens</p> <p>On Sunday 13th October my daughter and I went to the Open gardens at Bickleigh Vale in Mooroolbark. The village was designed and built according to Edna Walling's vision for a model "English style village" in the 1930s and 40s.</p> <p>There are about 30 cottages in the enclave surrounded by beautiful mature trees - gums, oaks and plane trees and the gardens are designed in the Cottage Garden Style and influenced by the great late Gertrude Jekyll's visionary plantings.</p> <p>There are no street lights nor concrete paths of any kind and everything is designed to give privacy to each cottage.</p> <p>For further information google Bickleigh Vale Village.</p> <p>Avril Clark</p>
--	---

Plastic bottles refund - Year to Date \$84.00

If you have plastic bottles with lids on, marked for 10c return and wish the Garden Club to benefit rather than the council bin, please bring them to the meeting.

Gladys has offered to take them to the refund place near her and Bank them directly to the Club's Bank Account.



Q: Why is the letter 'A' like a flower?

A: Because bee comes after it!

Q: Why did the meteorologist stay in bed?

A: He was feeling under the weather!

Taking Care & Growing Gardenia Plants

Gardenias require bright, indirect light. They also need moist, well-drained, acidic soil for optimal growth. Gardenias also thrive in humid conditions, so when growing gardenia plants, use pebble trays or humidifiers to add moisture to the air.

Gardenias prefer warmer days and cooler nights as well. Taking care of Gardenia plants requires a lot of work, as they are quite finicky when their growing requirements are not met. This includes fertilizing gardenias, which provides them with necessary nutrients for healthy growth and vigorous blooming. With the help of a good fertilizer, gardenias can be spectacular.

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/gardenia/fertilizing-gardenias-in-your-garden.htm#:~:text=care%20of%20gardenia,by%20over%20fertilizing.>

Gardenias should be fertilized in spring and summer. Fertilizing gardenias in fall or during winter dormancy should be avoided. In order to prevent over fertilization from occurring, you should apply fertilizer about once a month.

Mix fertilizer directly into the soil or add to water and apply to the soil. Using less than the recommended amount will also help minimize the likelihood of burning plants by over fertilizing."

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

Avril's New Adventure - 2nd Month

This month the dwarf beans are growing well and are about 15 cm tall.

The chilli seeds and the capsicum seeds have taken ages to germinate but tiny green shoots are now poking through the soil.



October Winner is Lois Sharpe

her potted Solomon's Seal



BULLEEN ART & GARDEN November Member Specials

Go to <https://www.baag.com.au/member-specials/>

To receive these specials tell the register staff you are a BAAG member. You will then need to let them know either your email address or phone number. If this is a phone order for a delivery, please tell the staff member about the special when placing the order.

Do register to receive the newsletter to be eligible for the Specials!

Avril's open garden

12 intrepid gardeners braved the torrential downpour to come and view my garden on the 5th October. After a soggy time in the garden we went inside for an enjoyable afternoon tea. Connie Lee won a beautiful succulent as a door prize.

Sweet Potatoes:- "Crop Rotation Group" Miscellaneous

Soil - Light, sandy soil best, but can adapt to any fertile, well drained soil.

Position - Full sun. Frost tolerant - No.

Feeding - Mix a good organic compost into the soil before planting.

Spacing - Single Plants: 45cm (1' 5") each way (minimum)

Rows: 45cm (1' 5") with 60cm (1' 11") row gap (minimum)

Sow and Plant - Plant 'slips' that grow from sprouting tubers in late spring or early summer, after the soil is very warm.

Our Garden Planner can produce a personalised calendar of when to sow, plant and harvest for your area.

Notes - Sweet potatoes form a dense green ground cover, thriving in hot summer conditions. Tubers are often found 12 inches or more from the plant's primary crown, so dig carefully.

Harvesting - Dig in autumn when the soil is still warm. Cure in a warm, airy place for two weeks before storing at cool room temperatures.

[https://www.growveg.com.au/plants/australia-and-nz/how-to-grow-sweet-potatoes/#:~:text=Crop%20Rotation%20Group,planting%20calendar%20below\).](https://www.growveg.com.au/plants/australia-and-nz/how-to-grow-sweet-potatoes/#:~:text=Crop%20Rotation%20Group,planting%20calendar%20below).)

Climbing Rose



Strawberries

&

Early Tomatoes

2 Exhibition Tables - one is for anything you wish to bring to show. The other is for the listed category which for November is 'Strawberries and Hydreangers'

**SGA & Manningham Council will be running 4 Free classes:
Wednesday & Thursday x 2 weeks in November. See link.**



Join our Wildlife Garden Seminar Series - with Sustainable Gardening Australia

This series of workshops by Sustainable Gardening Australia aims to give you the tools and techniques to plan and build a wildlife friendly garden at home.

Workshop 1: Wednesday 20 November, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Planning a Habitat Garden for Wildlife

Our indigenous animals are struggling with the effects of urbanisation and declining habitats. But with a few easy changes, a garden can become an inviting space for local fauna to visit and live in. Learn how to become a 'Champion for Wildlife' by incorporating food sources, water, shelter and nesting places in your garden for indigenous animals.

Workshop 2: Thursday 21 November, 7.00pm to 9.00pm - Soil Care in a Habitat Garden

In this workshop, we'll dive into the world of soil and how to care for it, so your wildlife garden flourishes. There are many simple ways to improve the soil in your garden and the paybacks can be huge. This workshop will introduce you to the science of soil and offer tips on protecting and improving soil for a wildlife garden.

Workshop 3: Wednesday 27 November, 7.00pm to 9.00pm - Attracting Native Bees and Butterflies into the Garden

Native bees and butterflies are great pollinators and beautiful additions to any garden. There are many ways to attract them, such as setting up a residency in your garden. This workshop will introduce you to the wonderful world of native bees and butterflies, while also sharing practical ways to invite insects to your garden. You'll be helping the environment while enjoying the splash of colour, movement and beauty that native bees and butterflies bring.

Workshop 4: Thursday 28 November, 7.00pm to 9.00pm - Attracting Small Birds into the Garden

It's becoming less common for small birds to visit our gardens. But we can make changes to encourage them back. This workshop will share some of the challenges small birds face in the urban environment and what we can do to bring them back – for a visit or to stay. We'll introduce some of our local small bird champions and share tips on creating habitats for birds by providing food, shelter, water and breeding sites.

**All seminars are at Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre,
Reynolds Road Doncaster East.**

To Book go to the website :

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sga-creating-a-wildlife-garden-seminar-series-tickets-1027753086147>

Inaugural Hanging Basket Competition at Roseville 31 October 2024

Avril Clark won the 'Budding Expert' Prize



Lois Sharpe won the 'Best Trailing' Prize



Lois Sharpe won the 'Most Coloured' Prize

