



News

June



The next meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held

At the RSL Hall Cnr Leed Street and Doncaster Road

On the 8th June at 8 pm

The **Speaker** for the meeting will be Pete the Premie

The table competition in June is for Potted plants

Committee Members 2022

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Hello Gardeners All,

We have had a dry month - only 13.3mm at my place so keep up the at least weekly watering on food crops.

Today's sunshine (21st) made garden chores very pleasant. The last tromboncino vines are out as well as 2 varieties of bean the flat Mediterranean type did not produce as well as it would have in a hotter, longer summer. The Blue Lake (Doug's, grown at Phillip Is) did rather well - possibly due to being acclimatised to a cooler environment when Doug grew them. The North Easter beans are still producing albeit slowly. They were the last planted and chosen as they can cope with cool winds.

Most pumpkin are picked and 2 ripe tromboncino to eat like pumpkin.

The last Black Cherry tomato is now out, dead but with some fruit to use green.

The beauty of allowing any vegetable to go to seed is the gift of free seedling next season:

There is self sown celery 2-3 inches high which may or not produce in summer as they are out of season. They will likely go to seed early but give me some in the meantime.

The shallots (2 plantings, a month apart) and Egyptian /Walking onions, all saved from last season's planting, are growing well.

Cos lettuce seedlings in abundance need thinning. I threw generous amounts of saved seed in 2 places.

Melting Mammoth snap peas are starting to produce. More need planting but it may be too late with frosts looming.

Celtice seedlings (asparagus lettuce) are almost ready to transplant as are the Lobelia seedlings. Both were saved and planted in punnet.

There are red poppies (maybe Flanders) self sown from last year to transplant from where they are, ie lots of work waiting.

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DGC Life members

Gerda van der Peet

Doug Brewer, Ken Beer

Toni Myers and Joan Driver

Q. What do you get when you cross a knife and your front lawn?

A. Blades of grass!

Q: What is a plumber's favourite plant?

A: A leek!

All correspondence should be forwarded to: Avril Clark 62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East 3109

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Helen Lovel from Neutrog gave an excellent talk on the family owned business, its growth in width and depth from farm to making organic fertilisers sold Australia wide commercially & for home gardeners and in parts of Asia. They have promoted themselves to Garden Clubs since 2005. There is also huge Research and Development. Sales often cannot keep up with demand.

Products include: Compost - from organically grown plant waste;

Who Flung Dung - from the woodshavings and manure of hen pens - does not move on windy days;

Dead Horse for Tomatoes - can increase tomato size 27-57%.

Human Beans - under development - some proceeds to Foodbank;

Cat Can Do - a compostable & certified kitty litter;

Populate is Gogo Juice with Biological Bacteria to give the soil biological life for better plant growth;

Strike Back for pot plants including Orchids, Clivias, Roses;

Gigantic is best for fruit and vegetables. It is designed for flowers, size and flavour.

Seamungus is seaweed plus for all plants -when transplanting, fortnightly use will strengthen plants to cope with extreme cold or heat.

Pauline



Those who ordered **Mycogold** should be able to collect it at the next meeting. Please bring your money: as we each have a share of the postage to pay the 200gm size will cost \$16.85 and \$33.70 for 400gm. This is a great buy: Diggers, for example, sells 200gm to members for \$49.95 or retail \$62.50.

The **Biochar** order goes in this week, if not delivered by 9th June, I should have a date soon after. We have free delivery so just bring your \$25 as we need it in advance to pay the account.

Apology if there was some confusion over what was the competition at the May meeting. I hope it does not deter anyone from competing.

The prize was presented to Lous Sharpe for her Protea
The competition for the **June meeting** will be for **Potted plants**



No one has ordered a **fruit tree**. Ring Pauline today PH 0409 063 060 if you are interest. I will give you prices off the list.
Pauline



CLUB DINEOUT

When: Wednesday 29th
June, 2022

Where: Doncaster Hotel,
cnr Victoria St and Doncaster Rd

Time: 6pm
RSVP by 22nd June to Anita Luzza
Ph 9842 7786 or 0413 245 645



SEEDS & PLENTY

15% off Code DGC Seeds at Pay Basket

Trevor Barrow the Chairman of Charman has offered us a discount for a Club order of his **Bio Char**. We can do this annually or twice yearly if there is the demand

This needs soaking in weed tea or compost tea or diluted **GoGo** Juice to inoculate/activate it with microbiota. Nutrients do not wash out but are taken by the plants or lawn as needed. Use at 2L per square metre.

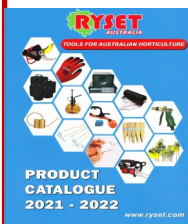
The prices are for delivery to my place: (Pauline Webb)

Vegetables to grow in June Broad beans, cabbage, asian greens like mizuna, tatsoi or pak choi, lettuce, rocket, spinach, carrots, celery, cauliflower, spring onions, leek, onions, radish, turnips and swedes.

Flowers: Aquilegia, Calendula, Cineraria, Cyclamen, Delphinium, Foxglove, Nemesis, Pansy, Primula, Polyanthus, Poppy, Viola..

Green manures: If your soil has been a little over worked, rest it with some "Green Manure" crops who's express purpose is to be turned into the soil come spring.

The Committee now 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. All orders must be given to a Committee member and the Club then sends in a Club order.

A friendly young cop found two young women crying their eyes out at the railway station and was unable to console them until he took them to a nearby café and ordered a pot of tea and a plate of cakes. They dried their tears and smiled. Then he plonked the teapot in the middle of the table and said "Now who's going to be mother.?" And they both burst into tears again.



Blueberries

Summer fruiting plants, blueberries generally bear their crop of delicious, highly nutritious berries from mid-summer into early autumn. Blueberries are coming into their dormancy period now, and while they may not look at their best as they start to lose their leaves, now is the right time to get them into the soil so that by the spring, they will reward you with ample growth and the promise of tasty fruit. Unfortunately blueberries have had a bad rap. Yes, they're picky about their soil, but if you get that right, you'll be rewarded with lovely plants that offer year round interest and highly nutritious fruit. We have always said that if you can grow azaleas, you can grow blueberries. Suitable for pots as well as garden beds, are you ready to you take the blueberry challenge?



The newsletter thank the Diggers Club for the use of their article

Garden Clubs of Australia

As our Club is now affiliated with the GCA all our members can enter their 2 exciting Annual Photographic Competitions.



The Annual Photographic Competition

Digital images or hard copy prints can be submitted of photos you have taken anywhere in the world, with no time limit on when the photos were taken. There are 5 categories for images and the **total prize value is \$2,250** spread over 30 awards.

The Annual GCA "Beautiful Gardens of Australia" Calendar Competition

Only digital images can be submitted, and they must be scenes taken within Australia.

Bartel Calendars provide **\$1,300 in total for the 13 main page images** used.

There is no payment to photographers for images used as small "fillers", but the photographers have the satisfaction of their name, and State, being printed on the photo.

THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE FOR EITHER OF THESE COMPETITIONS.

I will bring printed copies of the entry forms and conditions of entry to each monthly meeting for those interested in entering.

Paul LUCAS

Banana and Raspberry Cake

Makes 10 slices

Ingredients

150 g butter softened

1 cup brown sugar

2 eggs slightly beaten

2 ripe bananas ,peeled. mashed (see notes)

2 cups self raising flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

½ cup milk

½ cup fresh or frozen berries (see notes)

Butter to serve

(The provider of the recipe suggests adding one cup of raspberries and also 1 tbs cinnamon through the mixture)

Method

Preheat oven to 180* c

Grease base and sides of a 7cm deep 11 cm x 21 cm (base) loaf pan. Line with baking paper, allowing a 2 cm overhang at both ends.

Using an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar until pale. Add egg, in two batches, beating well after each addition.

Stir in banana. Sift flour and baking powder over banana mixture. Add milk. Stir i=with a wooden spoon until combined, Carefully fold in raspberries.

Spoon mixture into loaf pan. Smooth surface. Bake for 45 50 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Loft onto a wire rack to cool completely. Cut into 10 even slices.

Notes you will need 1 cup of mashed banana for this recipe> If using frozen raspberries, place on a paper towel to thaw before using>

What you can do with vinegar

Soaking seeds before planting them can help begin their germination, and vinegar can help. To soak, put the seeds in a small bowl or container and add just enough water to cover without completely submerging them. You can also use a Ziploc bag with enough water to keep the seeds damp. Before covering the bowl of seeds or sealing your Ziploc bag, add one to three tablespoons of vinegar. Let the seeds soak for eight to 12 hours, but no longer than 24. The acidity in the vinegar simulates what happens in an animal's stomach, which one way seeds germinate in the wild. The hard shells around the seeds will soften and encourage the seedling to sprout.

Vinegar can serve as an antifungal to help save your plants from mildew, mould, and other fungi. Just mix three tablespoons of apple cider vinegar with a gallon of water, and shake it up. Add the solution to a spray bottle to spritz the affected areas. This method also removes black fungi from rose plants. For a lighter smelling option, Chamomile tea can also fight against fuzzy mould and mildew on plants.

Earwigs

Insect: Many small holes in leaves/stalks. Trap in tuna can filled with 1/2 inch of fish oil and sunk in soil such that edge is slightly above ground level; remove plant debris and other nearby hiding places.



Article by **Munash Organics** makers of **Rock Dust** to remineralise our soils:

Regenerative agriculture is finally getting the time in the spotlight it deserves. Supporters and practitioners know that this is the way forward and we here at Munash Organics are behind the movement 100% of the way. You see, on our own farm here in Pootilla just ten minutes out of Ballarat in Central Victoria, this is how our family have been farming for decades now. And with the proven results in both yield plus a deep satisfaction that we are doing our bit for Mother Earth to ascertain we'd never farm any other way.

Why choose to be a soil steward?

As mentioned, it's not just up to farmers to take the full responsibility in regenerating our soil, we need to look at our own backyards too. The fact that regenerative farming (and yes gardening too) can help slow the rate of global warming alone should get you out there caring more for your soil. Rodale Institute research recently proved that replacing conventional farming methods with regenerative agriculture would enable us to sequester 100% of the annual global carbon emissions. To us it's a no brainer – Regenerative Ag all the way!



Seen in a local Fruit Shop. Is it a zucchini.?



Don't forget Stella Yee, Editor, has requested a photo of something special. It can be a plant or tree from out and about or from your own patch. She is needing them now as she is already thinking of the next issue which each edition has a garden page, which will mention DGC

Her email address is: editor@manninghamlife.com.au

There is also a photo competition with a \$50 voucher from a fresh food place as the prize!

Manningham Life magazine comes out 6 bi-monthly a year, Send your entries in no later than the second week of the month In return, Stella encourages us to tell family members of the \$200 fee for advertising their Businesses & products. The magazine goes to well over 40,000 addresses.



If members have a topic to assist in their gardening skills which they might like to hear of from a monthly Guest Speaker, please email Pauline at pauline.pw25@gmail.com or on mob 0409063060 or phone 9855 8440.