



# News

February 2022



## **GARDEN CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY 9th February at 8pm**

We will be meeting at the **RSL Hall**, cnr Leeds St and Doncaster Road

### **Our speaker will be Guy Palmer**

Guy plays a leadership role at [Incredible Edible Eltham](#), is one of the organisers of [Eltham Farmers' Market](#), writes the weekly [Local Food Connect newsletter](#), provides advice to [Sustainable Gardening Australia](#), and maintains this website.



The Club intends to run a raffle, (The club needs the funds)

If you have anything suitable to bring for the raffle that would be great



So come along and bring those coins we don't seem to use anymore

Also there will be a competition for vegetables this month so bring along an entry.



And lastly: 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](mailto:pauline.pw25@gmail.com)

or a message on 0409 063 063 or phone 8955 8440

### **Vale Julie Simkin**

Julie was an enthusiastic member of the Doncaster Garden Club initially with her husband, and then by herself. She loved gardening and will be fondly remembered for her joyful personality, kindness and friendliness.

### **Vale Kevin Wilson**

Kevin ran a Dairy Farm Museum at Philip Island for many years and the Chocolate Factory is now on this site. When Kevin and Myra moved up to Melbourne they joined the Garden Club and had been members for many years. Kevin specialised in Native plants and when he no longer used his swimming pool, he filled it in and planted roses!

Kevin has contributed many photographs to the Newsletter in the past too.

### **What to plant this month**

It's still too hot in most areas to plant winter vegetables, but start seeds of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and silver beet in pots in a cool spot that's shaded from the midday and afternoon sun. Alyssum and Sweet peas can provide colour in the garden.



## Popular drought-resistant plants for Melbourne gardens

**Lomandra longifolia (aka Mat Rush)** Traditionally used by Aboriginal people to weave nets and baskets, Lomandras are some of Australia's toughest plants, and the Tanika variety is one of the most drought-resistant. They are very low-maintenance and look great in mass plantings. so they're popular with landscape professionals and gardeners alike. Grows 50 to 70 centimetres high and wide in full sun or part shade, and produces small yellow flowers in late winter/early spring.



**Westringia fruticosa (aka Native Rosemary)** This shrub grows wild near the coast of New South Wales. The Grey Box variety is a beautiful, low-growing compact (up to 50 centimetres by 50 centimetres) variety with grey foliage and small white flowers. It was named [Plant of the Year](#) in 2015 by Nursery and Garden Industry Australia. Grey Box does well in full sun to light shade, and is very frost and drought-resistant.



**Lavender Dentata (aka French Lavender)** This tough flowering plant originates from arid Mediterranean regions and is a firm favourite with gardeners around the world for its uniquely aromatic foliage and its spikes of lovely purple flowers which draw bees and butterflies to the garden. It likes full sun, is versatile in rockeries, borders and containers and can also be clipped into a hedge. Reaches up to approx. 1 metre by 1 metre.



**Correa Reflexa Nummulariifolia (aka Roundleaf Correa)** A low bushy shrub or ground cover native to Tasmania. It is adaptable to most soil types, grows well in full sun or part shade, can tolerate being dry or moist and is not susceptible to frost. Roundleaf Correa reaches a height and width of 30 centimetres by 90 centimetres and produces pretty tubular pale yellow flowers that native birds love.



### **Acacia Cognata "Winter Flame" (Acacia Winter Flame)**

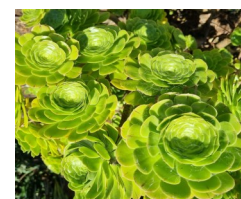
A hardy dwarf native acacia with vibrant green fine foliage and striking orange tips. It will need watering when first planted out, but once well established it is tough and low-maintenance and will only require a drink during extended periods of heat. If you're looking for drought tolerant plants in Australia go, this is a great choice. Acacia Winter Flame reaches a height and width of 80 centimetre by 1 metre.



**Dusty Miller** A timeless garden staple, dusty miller will probably never go out of style. With its striking silver foliage and lacy texture, this plant looks good throughout the whole growing season. Whether you use it as a backdrop for bright and bold flowers or as a statement piece in a container, this beautiful plant lasts and lasts



**Succulents** Succulents have become very popular due to their unique looks, ability to handle dryness and their toughness. They look very stylish in pots, garden beds or planted in mass and come in a range of different shapes, sizes and colors.



Why did the chicken cross the road?

*I don't know, why?*

I don't know—I asked you!

## Dear Members and friends of Doncaster RSL.

Anyone who has support needs please let us know so we can arrange support. Often it is with a "Care Package" from our craft ladies with small necessities or meals. Help around the home or garden or if you need something more. Our RSL is a very small but unique RSL and relies a lot on the support of its members. We are making sure that this RSL is going to still be here for future generations. Therefore we need to get as much support from the local community as possible. We will be open Thursday 27th January from 12 noon for lunch or afternoon snacks and drinks. Our craft morning teas will begin soon, our venue is available for hire for events or meetings. We have the ability to provide catering for booked events also. Come and see our refurbished facility. Visit our library and historical documents and fascinating books collection.

RSL Doncaster Subbranch PO Box 4001. Doncaster Heights. 3109. Located: Corner Doncaster Road and Leeds Street. Doncaster East. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RSL-Doncaster-Subbranch-107744134762346>

Phone: 0425 718 937

Some produce from local gardens. A pumpkin plant grown from seeds kept from a pumpkin won in the Garden Club raffle the editor was lucky enough to win. We believe the original pumpkin was grown by President Doug., Shallots with Long White Cucumbers and self sown parsnips are from Pauline's garden



### **CUCUMBER SALAD INGREDIENTS**

40ml (2 tablespoons) lime juice  
40ml (2 tablespoons) rice vinegar  
80ml (1/3 cup) fish sauce  
2 tablespoons caster sugar  
1 small red chilli, seeded, cut into thin strip  
1 small red onion, finely chop  
1/2 cup chopped fresh coriander

### **METHOD**

1. Combine the lime juice, rice vinegar, fish sauce and sugar in a small bowl, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Place the cucumber, chilli, onion and coriander in a medium bowl, pour over the dressing and stir to combine.



Sabrina Hahn, permaculture & horticulturist in WA. provides this recipe for making a good potting mix and it has been passed on by Pauline

1 bag of best potting mix 1/2 a laundry bucket each of compost and old sheep or cow manure

2 handfuls Rock dust and seaweed for mulch. I would suggest pine mulch/ needles as the strawberries, tomatoes, capsicums, cucumber can all cope with slightly acidic soil. Otherwise, sugarcane mulch is convenient as it is chaffed.

Biochar is another additive which will help. Both biochar and rock dust both alkalize the pH slightly so don't be heavy handed. I always like to add a big handful of gypsum for the calcium.

Pauline







## Bulleen Arts And Garden

BA&G centre will always give you a discount if you show your Garden Club membership card.



If we would boldly send Billionaires where no billionaire has been before, we could have sent them to the Tax Office

At my age a trail of clothes leading to the bedroom means I dropped them on the way to the washing machine.

Son : "I feel like you always make up rules and Stuff"

Dad: "Like what?"

Son: "Like if I don't clean my room a portal will open and take me to another dimension"

Dad: "Well that's what happened to your older brother"

Son: "What older brother?"

Dad: "Exactly"

"Will I be O K Doc?"

"I doubt it, Mercury is in Uranus right now"

"I don't believe in that Astronomy stuff"

"Me neither, my thermometer just broke"

Me: "Please bring me a screwdriver"

Girlfriend: "Flathead ,Phillips or vodka?"

Me: "That was when I knew she was the one"

A man said to his wife one day, 'I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time.

'The wife responded, 'Allow me to explain.

God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me. God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!

Walking back to the car because you forgot your mask is the new kind of pissed off.

The best times of our lives were not about what we had but who we were with.

I never thought I'd be the kind of person who who'd wake up early in the morning to exercise... And I was right.



### Committee Members 2021

President: Doug Brewer 0412 017 133

Vice President Pauline Webb

Secretary: Avril Clark 0402 478 302

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I believe this was in the Herald /Sun