



News

March 2021



To promote all forms of gardening. To encourage a greater interest in gardening in the district and to help all indoor and outdoor gardeners.

Committee Members

President: Doug Brewer 9850 1710

Vice President Pauline Webb 9

Secretary: Avril Clark

Speakers: Pauline Webb

Treasurer: Toni Myers

Newsletter Albert Schafter

Albert,

Anita Luzzi

Kenneth Beer

Joanne Driver

Esther Sim

Margaret Schafter

Important Information

The Annual Meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on the 14 th April at 8,pm.

The March meeting is proposed to be at the Cherrytree Hotel 195 Reynolds Road East Doncaster at Please advise a club committee member if you intend to come.

Seniors meals available

Please note President Doug Brewer's phone number is 0478 609 364 He no longer has a land line.

Phone number for Toni Myres 0478 609 364

Gail McCann advises that due to the Covid 19 the only recyclables are wool, squares and stamps.

Please read the article below regarding annual fees.

Even though there were no meetings during 2020 cost still occur.

Committee has decided not to charge fees for 2020 financial members but need to recoup newsletter costs to the club from those unfinancial for 2020 year. Due to Covid regulations newsletters could not be picked up from printers but had to be sent by courier adding to costs. We try to keep costs down where possible for all members. To keep the club financial all members need to contribute.

What to plant in March Asian Greens, broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage carrot, cauliflower, chives, coriander, endive Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, parsley, radish, rocket, silver beet, Spring Onion, Swede,

Flowers to plant in March: Aquilegia, Calendula, Cineraria, Delphinium, Holyhock, Foxglove, Linaria, Nemesis, Pansy, Primula, Polyanthus, Poppy, Viola.



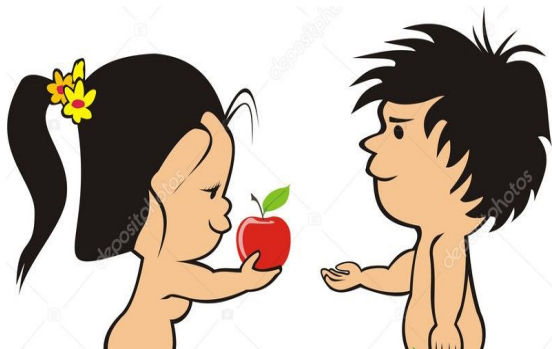
Thanks to all who helped with articles and pictures for this edition of the Garden Club newsletter

All correspondence should be addressed to the person by name or title such as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary or News Editor, Doncaster Garden Club Inc., and forwarded to:

Doug Brewer 51 Manningham Road Bulleen 3105 or Joan Driver

They grow them big at the Clarke house hold

This Basil leaf grown by Frank and Avril is so large they have submitted it to the Guinness Book of Records. We await with interest the result (may take three months). Pity it wasn't grown a few years ago. I'm sure Adam (of Eve fame) could have found it vey handy



Roses

Feed roses with Rose Food. If mildew and black spot hasn't already driven you to pruning your roses, then now is the time to prune them back lightly to encourage an autumn flush on repeat flowering varieties. This summer pruning is easily done if you pick the flowers for vases inside. Place cut roses in water straight away with a drop of Plant Starter in the water, and keep in a cool position inside. They should last for one to three weeks.

Pruning

Cut back summer flowering herbaceous perennials, mulch with compost and water well. They should reward the attention with a flush of autumn flowers. Dead head agapanthus that should be finished flowering now. Don't let the heads go to seed. They propagate by seed easily and can become an environmental problem if allowed to spread.

Old age is golden, or so I've heard it said.
But sometimes I wonder, as I crawl into bed.
With my ears in a draw, my teeth in a cup, My
glasses on the table until I get up. As sleep dims
my vision, I say to myself. Is there anything else
I should lay on the shelf? The reason know my
youth is all spent? Is my Get-up-and-go has got
up and went! But in spite of it all, I'm able to grin. And think
of the places my getup has been.



Do you need phosphorus in your soil?

A simple way is to look at your plants. Those suffering from Phosphorus deficiency are often stunted particularly during the early stage of development. The mature slowly produce few flowers and have a week and poorly developed root system. Older leaves can be a darker green colour, sometimes purplish.

How can you add phosphorus to your soil. Most synthetic and organic fertilisers contain some level of phosphorus. Check the NPK reading on fertiliser packets to determine and compare the rate of Phosphorus to other nutrients. Of the organic fertilisers the best sources of phosphorus include Blood and bone and animal manures especially those from grain fed animals such as poultry. Making compost from your garden waste and returning it to the soil is a simple way to cycle and conserve phosphorus.

Most annual plants (plants that grow, reproduce and die in one year) require large amounts of phosphorus as they begin to grow. Plants grown in cold weather which have limited **roots** and rapid top growth, such as **lettuce**, are high phosphorus users. **Legumes** also require plentiful amounts of phosphorus.

This information was taken from a Gardening Australia magazine



CRAB-APPLE JELLY

Serve with Roast Beef. A few cloves or some bruised root ginger may be added while the apples are cooking to give extra flavour.

Ingredients: 2,75 kg (5 ½ Lb) crab-apples, washed. 1.8 ltr (3 pints) water, sugar.

Cut the crab-apples into quarters without peeling or coring and put them in a preserving pan with the water. Bring to the boil and simmer gently for about 1 ½ hours until the fruit is soft and pulpy, adding a little more water if necessary. Stir from time to time to prevent sticking. Spoon the fruit pulp into a jelly bag or cloth attached to the leg of an upturned stool and leave it strain into a large bowl for at least 12 hours.

Discard the pulp remaining in the jelly bag. Measure the extract and return it to the pan with 500 gm (1 lb) sugar for each 600 ml (1 pint) extract. Heat gently, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved, then boil rapidly for about ten minutes. Test for a set and when setting point is reached, take the pan off the heat and remove any scum with a slotted spoon. Pot and cover the jelly as usual



Once I've had my coffee I can use big words.
Before coffee, I mostly use ones with four letters.

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

2021 Plant Collectors Sale & Garden Expo



- Rare and unusual perennials, bulbs, trees, succulents and more.
- Australian made quality garden tools.
- Children friendly activities.
- Set in 10 acres of beautiful gardens. Guided walks available.
- Light refreshments available.
- Free onsite parking—\$5 entry (under 14 free)

Sat 6th & Sun 7th March 2021 | 10am— 4pm

The Ferny Creek Horticultural Society

100 Hilton Road, Sassafras, Victoria 3787

Bus Groups welcome by arrangement - secretary@fchs.org.au

For updates check Facebook or www.fchs.org.au

A mother and daughter are out shopping. As she watches her mother trying on a new fur coat, the daughter says, Mum, don't you realise that some poor, dumb beast suffered so that you could have that coat? The mother replies, Don't be rude – that's no way to talk about your father.

Jobs for march

Rake leaves into a pile and add to your compost heap
Put cold loving tulip, daffodil, crocus and hyacinth bulbs in the fridge for a few weeks of pre-planting chill.
Dig Sweet pea beds, and add lime.
Prune back Native Hibiscus by about one third now the flowering has finished.
Begin feeding potted plants fortnightly with liquid fertiliser to strengthen them before winter.
Sow cool climate grass seeds such as rye and fescue to patch and thicken lawns for the cool months ahead

This information was taken from a Gardening Australia magazine

The first million people to send me \$1 will get a copy of My Guide on How to Become a Millionaire using Facebook.

They say marriages are made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning

Congratulations to Claudia Raiola .



First time she has had a vegetable garden, which was created with the help of a friend. As she says, she had a good teacher

The photo's show the excellent results.



KEVIN HEINZE

Kevin Heinze Garden Centre

This years Autumn Fair will be on

Saturday 17th April from 9.am to 3 pm

Subject to government restrictions

All funds raised will support Kevin Heinze on-going therapeutic horticulture programs for people of all abilities. 39 Wetherby Rd, Doncaster VIC 3108

The great miscalculation gardeners make is to concentrate on the plants instead of the soil in which they plant them. Never lose fight of the old adage "the answers lies in the soil". Attend to it's needs by conditioning, mulching, enriching, feeding and moisturising.



BIRTHFLOWERS

The tradition of assigning a different birthflower originated in the northern hemisphere. A baby born in March could be presented with bunches or pots of jonquils or daffodils, which are in abundance at that time of the year. In the southern hemisphere however, March babies would have to wait six months before catching their first glimpse of the designated birth flower, and so the custom has little relevance in countries south of the equator.

The list was published in "Burke's Backyard" (remember him?)

of suggested Australian birth flowers

You may agree or not

Month	Australian Birthflowers	Traditional Birth flowers
January	Bluebell Creeper	Snowdrop, carnation
February	Cut-leaf Daisy	Violet , primrose
March	Native Rhododendron	Jonquil, Daffodil
April	Native Violet	Sweet Pea, Daisy
May	Pink Wax flower	Lily of the Valley,
June	Payne's Heath myrtle	Rose, honeysuckle
July	Dampiera diversifolia	Water Lilly, Larkspur
August	Grey Spider flower	Poppy, Gladioli
September	Brown boronia	Aster, Morning glory
October	Gawler bottlebrush	Calendula, Cosmos
November	Flannel flower	Chrysanthemum
December	Christmas bells	Holly, Narcissus.

From Pauline,

I planted Broccoletti and Broccoli. The white collars (pieces of 90mm plumbing pipe) are an attempt to keep the cabbage butterfly away as they are supposed to be territorial so avoid anything white which indicates another butterfly.

Here are 2 of the 6 Dutch Longshank Pumpkin - related to the Butternuts. All weigh between 1.5 and 3 kg but are still green. Original seed from Lois Sharp maybe 3 years ago.

