



# News

## August 2022



The next meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held at the RSL Hall corner of Doncaster Road and Leed Street at 8 p.m  
The Speaker will be Trevor Barrow from Biochar  
the competition will be for for August is for Fruit and vegetables  
The Speaker for September will talk on managing Fruit Fly

### Committee Members 2022

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HELLO Gardening Friends,

It might feel like winter with cold mornings, some rain, winds off the snow (chill factor of 8 on 16/7). I have had one good frost (-2.5 deg here today, 20th!). However, there are signs of a shorter winter and an early Spring. Twice lately, in different locations I have seen a magpie feeding a squawking chick that already flies. Apart from this the BOM is predicting a 50% chance of another La Nina Spring and Summer (6months). This means we need to plant varieties of flowers and veg that can cope with cooler, shadier (more clouds), damper and more disease resistant than in hotter years. In 2021 I grew Long White Cucumber which had no issues. The Straight 8 produced a fraction on poor quality bushes. Cherry Tomatoes, Stupice and some others will do better also. Do ask Google for the cool, humid climate varieties of any fruit, veg, flowers, etc so your choices have a better chance. With luck the nurseries will sell some of what Google suggests. Don't forget the iron based Snail Bait - safe for worms, pets and children 🐞🐞🐞 sold at good nurseries not supermarkets.

The DIY rat bait recipe with cocoa and bicarbonate of soda that I have been using no longer works - the rats are clever and don't touch it lately. I have chased another bait online to try on them, using Boric Acid. This can be found at hardware stores and is the boron that one uses sparingly (1teasp per 10L) on brassicas, beetroot and some other crops to prevent hollow centres

DIY RAT BAIT BALL Put 1 cup of boric acid into a bowl and mix it with chicken broth, about a ½ teaspoon a time. Stir very well after each addition. If the texture is too thin, add more boric acid. (The smell of the broth starts to attract rats, which will eventually die when they consume the boric acid.) Wear your gloves and roll this paste into balls, about the size of a marble. Put this on a jar that will serve as bait to rats and mice.

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### **DGC Life members**

**Gerda van der Peet Doug Brewer,**

**Ken Beer Toni Myers**

**Joan Driver and Gayle McCann**

The Competition in July winner was Gail McCann with Camellia flowers. Congratulations Gail




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 on mob 0409063060 or phone 9855 8440.

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



As Ken Beer is having difficulty attending Garden Club meetings the committee arranged to meet with Ken at Handorfs Coffee lounge, where he was presented with a Long Service Certificate. We think he was very pleased. At the Monthly meeting Doug Brewer and Gayle McCann were both presented with Long Service certificates .



Congratulations to all.

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 The Committee is pleased to announce EFTPOS is now available to pay annual fees at the RSL Hall. Those not currently financial will receive a phone call from Avril or Pauline to check if they wish to continue to receive the newsletter or are choosing to depart the Club. We thank everyone for their support to our running costs.  
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## SEEDS & PLENTY

**15% off Code DGCseeds at Pay Basket**

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.

If you have a special photo (plant, tree, etc) send it to Stella Yea, Editor@manningham life.com.au \$50.00 available as a prize  
 Manning ham Life comes out four times a year. Send

At a party a young wife admonished her husband.  
 "That's the fourth time you've gone back for ice cream and cake. Doesn't it embarrass you?" "Why should it?" he answered. " I keep telling them it's for you".

A teenager brings her new boyfriend home to meet her parents. They're appalled by his haircut, his tattoos, his piercings. Later the girl's mum says "Dear, he doesn't seem to be a very nice boy."

"Oh, please Mum," says the daughter, if he wasn't nice, would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"  
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**Pauline letter from page one (continued)** Do remember to deep water garden beds under the eaves weekly where no rain falls (north-east side at my place where capsicum plants regularly survive the winter for the next season ) and a weekly soak to veggies unless there has been a 10mm rain event in a single day. Then there is WEEDING. They pull up easily from the damp beds. Follow up with a light mulch to slow new ones. If space allows sprinkle suitable seed before the mulch to deter weeds through lack of space.

I have carrot seed up at long last. It has taken 4-5 weeks in the cool but has not needed as much fine watering to keep damp.

I will be planting tomato seeds soon and starting them on a hot mat inside until they shoot. They will be named and potted up in 50mm pots when 30mm high. Last year some members bought my spares as advanced plants in October.

Happy Gardening, Pauline



At the July meeting we listened to Wendy Clark who spoke on Small creatures in the garden. With the help of slides she described the benefits of a number of small insects that have an important roll in the garden. While we think of bees and the work they do to pollinize flowers other insects do this work as well. Wendy was thanked by Pauline for a very informative talk.

**Did you know** Australia has over 2000 species of native bees? They come in all different shapes and sizes. Some are large like the yellow and black carpenter bees who are 24 mm long. Some are tiny bees who are only 2 mm long. Australian native bees are important pollinators of our unique wildflower and native plants. Some of our local bees include the Blue Banded Bee and Sweet Bees. A bee hotel provides valuable habitat for solitary female bees to lay their eggs, The native plants surrounding the hotel provide the bees with a food source. You can attract native bees to your garden by providing them with habitat like a bee hotel, sticks and logs for them to nest in. You can provide food by planting native plants such as chocolate lilies.



## 2022 The year of firsts in our Park Orchards Garden

1 I enjoyed my first home grown crunchy Japanese persimmon. After 25 years this tough little tree (a seedling grown by my late mother produced one fruit.

2 The Pecan tree, also a seedling grown by an Italian friend, produced five nuts. This is a large deciduous tree which we grow mainly to shade our chook run.

3 The avocado, This was a seedling which a neighbour assisted me to graft, also about 25 years ago. It has been flowering and growing well for all those years but must have heard me threaten it with the axe as now it has about 20 medium size fruit on it.

4 Brussel Sprouts. I have never tried growing these so it was a bit of an experiment. I planted the seedlings in January 2022 and now we have some ready to eat.

After 40 years of building up this garden it is exciting to have some surprises, long may it continue.

Lois Sharpe

**Vegetables to grow in August** Artichoke, Asparagus, Broad beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Celery, Coriander, Endive, English Spinach, Artichoke, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mint, Onion, Peas, Potatoes, Snow Peas, Turnip.

**Flowers:** Sow Candytuft, Cornflower, Delphinium, English daisy, Godetia, Hollyhock, Larkspur, Lupin, Nemesis, nigella, Phlox, Polyanthus, Primula, Schizanthus, Statice, Strawflower, Sweet pea and Wallflower.

### Peach and nectarine trees

A copper-based fungicide or bordeaux mixture applied now should be used to prevent leaf curl. Especially those varieties prone to the disease. Leaf curl can only be prevented not cured. Those leaves infected will remain on the tree until there is a period of hot weather. Trees infected will produce inferior fruit. Trees should be sprayed before bud swell well before any sign of leaves forming.

At the same time an oil based spray should be included to prevent aphid. These aphids lay eggs which are dormant through winter. Nurseries can provide a combined spray for both curl leaf and aphid.

### Roses

Roses should also be sprayed with a suitable fungicide before any sign of growth to prevent black spot. Two sprays two weeks apart is recommended, any old infected leaves should be removed if possible before spraying. Also as in the case of peach trees included in the spray should be something to prevent aphid. See your local nursery for the correct spray.

Men don't you love them?

**Marriage:** It begins as you sink into his arms and ends with your arms in the sink

**Men:** There are three kind of men the handsome, the caring and the majority

**It is said** the wisest of men can become foolish over woman; and the most foolish of women are wise to men

**She said** we all have to live with our disappointments but why do I have to live with mine?,

**The only** difference with men and pigs is when pigs drink they don't make men of themselves.

**She wanted** a husband and put an add in the personal column. She got a hundred replies saying you can have mine.



### **Tomato Soup with carrot, celery, and fresh basil**



#### **Ingredients**

2 carrots, 2 sticks of celery, 2 medium onions  
2 cloves garlic, olive oil  
2 organic, reduced-salt chicken or vegetable stock cubes  
2 X 400g of quality plum tomatoes  
6 large ripe tomatoes, 12 bunch fresh basil (15g)

#### **Method**

Peel and roughly slice the carrots, slice the celery, and peel and roughly chop the onions. Peel and slice the garlic. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large pan over a medium heat, add all the prepped ingredients, then cook with lid ajar for 10 to 15 minutes, or until softened. Crumble the stock cubes into a jug, cover with 1.5 litres of boiling water, and stir until dissolved. Add the stock to the veg pan with tinned and fresh whole tomatoes, including the green stalks that may still be attached to some of them (these give an amazing flavour – trust me!). Give it a good stir and bring to the boil, then reduce to a simmer for 10 minutes with the lid on. Meanwhile, pick your basil leaves. Remove the pan from the heat. Season to taste with sea salt and black pepper, then stir through the basil leaves.

### **Cow Manure.**

It's nutrient profile is quite balanced across the board so makes it a good all rounder for everything we grow including root veggies.



#### **Sheep Manure**



Is high in potassium and nitrogen, so if your goal is lovely tasting fruit you might want to go with sheep manure.

#### **Poultry Manure**

Is very high in nitrogen, so this is best for your leafy greens.



#### **Blends and Mixes**

There are a couple of products that are mixes of manures, rock minerals, blood and bone and compost. These are great, but they aren't that potent. I'd use these if you want a balanced top up and you aren't really adding extra compost as well.

#### **Pelletised Manure**

There are also loads of pelletised manures on the market some are specifically poultry but others are blends and are generally used as a slow release as they release the nutrients as the pellets start to break down. We use them in conjunction with a manure and compost blend, and the main reason why we don't use them exclusively is because our garden beds are quite full of organic matter that is breaking down, the beds drop considerably so we are always topping them up.

### **Vegetables you can grow from scraps:**

**Spring Onions**, Use the roots you normally cut off and drop into a glass of water and wait until new shoots appear. Change water frequently and when the shoots are about 10 centimetres long transfer into a pot in your garden.

**Garlic**: Experts recommend using organic garlic and then taking a single clove and digging it into the soil with the pointy side up. Plant in autumn in full sun or partial shade in moist, well-drained soil and harvest six to eight months later.

**Lettuce**: Buy organic lettuce with roots still in place and plant the root base in the garden or pots. Plant year round in a sunny position. Plants will take eight to 10 weeks to mature. You can cut the whole plant or pick the outer leaves as required

**Sweet Potato** Place the tip of a tuber suspended by toothpicks from the top of a jar into water and watch it shoot a vine. Cuttings can be taken from the vine and planted in soil. Best planted in spring, four weeks after the last frost (in frost-prone areas), sweet potatoes thrive in loose crumbly soil in a sunny position. They will take four to six months to mature, depending on climate.

**Potato Growing Details** The key to getting a lot of large tubers is to grow lots of leaves. Early and mid-season varieties (70 & 80 days) produce one set of rhizomes which form very near the original seed potato.

Late-season varieties grow over a much longer season (90 days) and will make additional rhizomes higher on the stem; as high as one foot above the seed potato.

Potatoes are cool season crops that like cool, moist conditions when tubers are forming. Optimal tuber set takes place with a night soil temperature of around 13C. When night time soil temperatures exceed 20C tuber growth is reduced, & stops above 29C.