



August 2023
47 years of growth
1976-2023



Contact Details

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Web address;

www.doncastergardenclubaus.com

Upcoming meetings:

The Doncaster Garden Club Committee meeting will be held on
Wednesday 2nd August 2023
8:00 pm at 11 Inglewood Close, Doncaster East.

The August meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on
Wednesday 9th August, 2023

At 8pm at the RSL Hall, corner Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East.

The speaker for August is Andrew Fernandez, on Orchids.

September Meeting - Subject: Smoked eggs. Speaker: Julie Kos

Committee Members 2023

President:

Pauline Webb

Secretary:

Avril Clark

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Fund Raising Co-ordinator

Anita Luzzi

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Ray Brett

Gladys Lim

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Gardeners' All,

We will be putting in a combined order for **biochar**, aka horticultural charcoal, so, at the meeting, sign the clipboard if you wish to participate. I am still chasing prices and have asked re a discount. Biochar varies in quality so buying a high quality one is important.

Ryset Catalogues: there are 3 Ryset catalogues with Club members. *Please return them* as they are needed.

Ryset Order: Some of us intend to buy from Ryset - fruit fly nets and bait (Wild May to hang in August for trapping male fruit fly), tools, secateurs, fancy pots and much more. Let us know if you wish to see a catalogue.

Cera traps: these trap male and females QFF and are NOT available at Ryset but are cheap online. I am arranging a group order with possible discount with Pestrol Australia. If you are interested Google Cera Traps and look at the choice Pestrol offers. More about this at our meeting on the 9th August.

Club Dinner: The 2nd Club dinner is on Wednesday 30th August. We will have it at the **Templestowe Hotel, 23 Parker St. Templestowe** at 6:30pm.

FYI, senior meal comes with a FREE dessert

Those planning to come put your name on the clipboard list next week.

Continued on page 6....

John Hassal talks on Vertical Gardening

John gave us a most interesting talk on Vertical Gardens at the July Club meeting. Many vertical and rooftop gardens are hydroponic systems of green walls of plants that can be attached to a building wall or fence and may have a backing of mesh or felt. Fertiliser is generally run inline through the irrigation system.

It is important, when choosing a wall system, to think of the weight of the soil and the type of pot which is to be used. Many pots are UV susceptible and can deteriorate over time. It is also important to select the right plants for the purpose you have in mind.

Low tech vertical gardens are available for the home. Again, when planning one of these you have to consider water/ drainage, and lighting and the right selection of plants for the area. The quality of the products used also are an important factor.



Comedy Corner

My wife is furious at our next door neighbour who sunbathes nude in her garden...
Personally, I'm on the fence



Don't worry about your smartphone and TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been gathering dirt on you for years!

Why natural fertilizer is a good choice?

savvygardening.com



Most synthetic fertilizers release their nitrogen (of which only 40-60% is actually useable) within three to six weeks, while fish-based fertilizer releases its nitrogen (of which 90% is useable) over the course of up to 15 weeks. As you can see, although natural fertilizers may seem lower in nutrients because their N-P-K ratios are typically lower, you'll actually be getting more nutrients over a longer period of time. Since it takes the microbes in the soil longer to process natural fertilizers and release the nutrients they contain into the soil, the nutrients are available in a slow-release form.

An added benefit to using natural fertilizers is that many of them also contain trace nutrients that are not found in synthetic fertilizers that contain only nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium.

Non-Toxic Weed Killer With Essential Oils

Author: Mama Z

Ingredients

- 1½ ounce [Dr. Bronner's liquid castile soap](#)
- 3 drops wintergreen essential oil
- 3 drops clove essential oil
- 3 drops cinnamon essential oil
- 3 drops orange essential oil
- 14 ounces [distilled white vinegar](#)

Supplies:

- [16-ounce glass spray bottle](#)

Instructions

1. Place the castile soap and essential oils in a glass spray bottle.
2. Pour in the vinegar, replace the lid, and shake vigorously to mix. Spray on weeds as needed.



Notes

This weed killer will destroy anything it comes into contact with, so be sure you don't spray it on anything you want to live!

Essential Oil Ant Killer for Pests and Wasps

Author: Mama Z

Ingredients

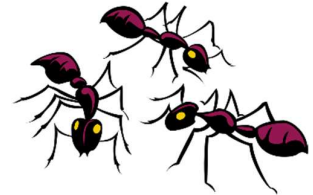
- 1 gallon warm purified or distilled water
- ½ cup [honey or maple syrup](#)
- 3 ounces [Dr. Bronners unscented liquid castile soap](#) or Homemade Dish Soap
- 1.5 ounces citrus essential oil

Supplies:

- 3-gallon bucket

Instructions

1. Mix the water, honey, soap, and essential oils in a 3-gallon bucket.
2. Saturate the ground where the ant nest or wasp hive is. This usually takes the entire recipe.
3. Wait a week before applying again.



If other pests are a problem this [essential oil spider spray](#) might be a good option for you!

Supper Roster

August:

Ray Brett
Joan Middleton
Darrell Middleton
Claudia Raioli



D G C Life Members

Gerda van der Peet
Ted Page
Doug Brewer
Joanne Driver
Ken Beer
Elsie Carter
Toni Myers
Bev Turner
Gayle McCann



Facts about earthworms in the latest LFC Newsletter.

Bev Middleton, from Soil Week Australia: Worm castings, also known as worm poo, are very nutrient rich. They contain beneficial bacteria, enzymes, micronutrients (including iron, sulphur, magnesium, zinc, copper and calcium) and macronutrients (nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus).

Pauline suggests looking up Soilweek Australia (an initiative which ran last year for schools) on Facebook to learn about worms and healthy soils from cartoons and videos.



Planting guide for August



FRUIT & VEGETABLES	HERBS	FLOWERS
Asparagus	Chives	Alyssum
Beetroot	Dill	Aquilegia
Broad Bean	Garlic	Begonia
Broccoli	Mint	Cornflower
Cabbage	Oregano	Delphinium
Carrot	Parsley	Dianthus
Cauliflower	Thyme	Forget me Not
Celery		Foxglove
Leek		English Daisy
Onion		Lobelia
Peas		Lupin

Competition Table

July competition winner for

“fruit/vegetables”

Was Pauline with her gourmet “black raddish”.



Be sure to bring your
“Cut flowers” for our **August** competition

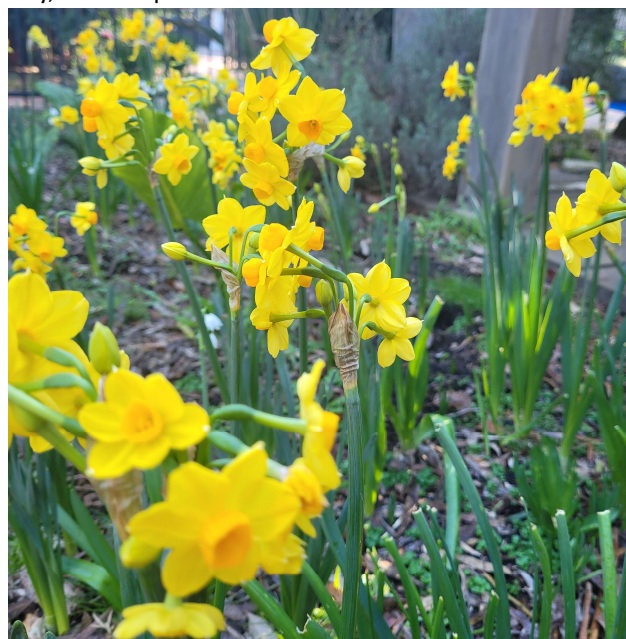
2024 Club Calendar

We are proposing a calendar for 2024 and would very much like your input. If you have any photos of your wonderful garden, could you please forward them on to Margaret at;

info@mmsconsulting.com.au

The photos need to be high resolution for a good quality reprint. They should be sent before mid August and if you can also include your name and the time of year that the photo was taken, for example...

July, Linda Speirs



Thank you in anticipation.

YEA

GARDEN EXPO

23 & 24 SEP 2023

9AM - 3PM

Location: Yea Saleyards
Flat Lead Road, Yea (see website for directions)

Only an hour from Melbourne!

- Native & flowering plants
- Garden sculptures
- Motorised barrows & vehicles
- Garden tools & Vegetable bins
- Seedlings
- Mulch, fertilisers & compost
- Ride-on & push mowers
- Nurseries
- Small chainsaws
- Roses
- Deciduous & Ornamental trees
- Garden books
- Plant Creche
- Speakers Program
- And much more.....

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE!

Entry \$10 for adults - Kids U/16 FREE.
Pay at the gate or book online via www.trybooking.com
www.trybooking.com/CGUBP (Bookings open July 1st)

FREE PARKING

Contact: yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au
www.yeagardenexpo.com.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued from page 1.

Toni Myers, after long years as the Club's Hon Treasurer, has decided to resign from the position. She will remain on the Committee at this stage. The Committee extend their warmest regards and appreciation to Toni for her years not only as Treasurer but Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor and more.

Dr Margaret Salter has offered to be the **Interim Treasurer** until the AGM when she will stand for election to the position. This last week Margaret has been preparing our forecast for the current year and the **Annual Budget for 2024** allowing for all the costs we have been incurring with the price rises since covid. This will be presented at the Committee meeting on the 2nd and put on the big screen at the AGM for all to understand. There will need to be a small **increase in fees for our financial year which runs from 1st November 23 to 31st October 24**. Fees will need to be paid at the November meeting or you will not be eligible for the newsletter and Christmas entertainment.

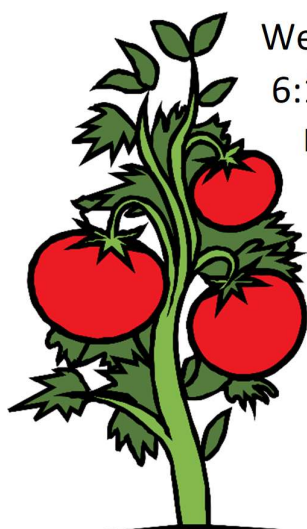
Trevor and I are visiting our daughter in dry sunny Qld this week. The mornings have been chilly but not the biting cold and possible rain in Melbourne. Before leaving we pruned more raspberries and 2 fig trees and fertilised the berries. So many plants are either preparing to shoot or already shooting with the unusually warmer July. I noticed that the **bok choy** already had flowers starting. They have produced well and I put some in the **freezer** to deal with the excess. Google instructions were to not wash, wipe leaves clean and dry with paper towel, cut, pack in zip bags, remove air and freeze. It is worth trying.

I will belatedly plant tomato seeds this coming week and put them on a hot mat to grow. I usually transplant them into individual 50mm pots when about 30-50mm high and keep on the hot mat till the garden soil is warmer in late Sept - late Oct depending on the arrival of warm days which may be earlier this year. I had a small number of tomato fruits infected with **Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF)** last year. August is time to hang Wild May lures (for the males) on fruit trees and near fruiting vegetables. September is when we hang the Cera traps which catch both sexes. Both need topping or replacing across the season. As soon as an evening at sunset is 16C deg, we need to net the fruit trees BUT they must complete flowering first as the bees cannot pass through the fine netting. At 16 degrees the QFF which pupate in the soil overwinter, commence emerging and will sting partly formed fruit. Some QFF even overwinter on the back of citrus leaves. As tomato flowers vibrate to spread pollen, these can be netted as early as the plants commence flowering. Bulleen Art and Garden sell QFF netting by the metre which is 6m wide. If you are registered for their newsletter (do so online) or say you belong to DGC, you will receive 5% discount.

Happy Gardening,

Pauline

Tomato Master Class



Wednesday 6th September

6:15pm to 8:00pm

Home Harvest Manningham is a monthly gardening seminar series that will teach you how to grow your own delicious fresh food at home.

Penny Woodward, Author TomatoKnow, Sow Grow, Feast will present the September Seminar.



Manningham Function Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.



Free



manningham.vic.gov.au/home-harvest-manningham



Dear Friends,

Re: **Opportunities with the Friends of Burnley Gardens**

We are writing to you either as a member or past member of FOBG, or an organisation associated with FOBG .

We are reaching out to you as we are very much in need of some more people with a passion for our Gardens. As you know the FOBG has contributed to many beautiful projects in the Gardens for more than 20 years. However, for us to continue we need people with specific interests and skills to join our small 'work force'. In particular we are looking for **Committee membership** as well as a new **President**.

We have been lucky enough to have Sandra McMahon of Gardenscape Design as our President for the last 5 years, but sadly due to her other commitments she will be stepping down later in the year. Our stalwart Vice President is also stepping down as she is moving to the country. We are very much hoping to find several people who are passionate about the Burnley Gardens who would like to take on a leadership or a supporting role. The Committee is made up of 8 other members who are very active in their roles on the Committee and who would be particularly supportive of a new member joining the Committee and especially one prepared to take on the role of President.

If you have any interest in joining us in any capacity please contact me or our Treasurer, Kirsten Binns Smith – contact details below.

Kind regards,

Jacquie

Jacquie Chirgwin

Secretary FOBG

0418 347 943

Email: secretary@fobg.com.au

Kirsten Binns Smith

Treasurer

0425778281

Email: treasurer@fobg.com.au

Invite you to an illustrated talk by

Peter Leigh of Post Office Farm

A Passion for Hellebores

Wednesday 16th August 2023 7 for 7.30pm

(Follows the AGM at 6pm)



Peter Leigh is the owner of Post Office Farm Nursery in the Macedon Ranges, a specialist Hellebore production nursery. Peter has been growing Hellebores since the early 1990's, initially as a keen amateur collector. Then, after outgrowing his Brunswick garden and studying Horticulture at NMIT and Burnley he moved to 20 acres at Ashbourne near Woodend in 2002, and set up Post Office Farm. He has imported seed from overseas, and breeds his own stock which has been gradually increasing over the years. He has a huge range of the most beautiful Hellebores and Post Office Farm is the holder of the National Hellebore Collection.

Bookings are via TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CJYUB>

Place: MB10, Burnley Campus, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond.

Time: 7 pm drinks & nibbles, 7.30 for the talk

Cost: \$10 for Members (**\$5 for those that attend the AGM**); \$20 for Non-members

Parking: available on the Boulevard

Friends Of Burnley Gardens Inc

500 Yarra Boulevard Richmond 3121

Treatment Trial of Fusarium on Cherry Trees

Fusarium is a large genus of soil fungi found in many parts of the world that can have devastating impact on plants, particularly in commercial growing operations and nurseries. There are over 1,000 species of Fusarium which can result in stem cankers, foot and root rot, and wilting.

Three cherry trees budded onto the same root stock were recently sent to Neutrog from a grower in Victoria to check for the presence of Fusarium.

A wedge of the roots and surrounding soil was cut out of each of the trees and screened on potato dextrose agar. "Initial analysis revealed the presence of a fungi which is potentially Fusarium in two of the three samples. Fusarium can often be distinguished from other fungi in that it shows as a light pink colour on the growth media. We will now regrow and purify these potential Fusarium isolates for definitive identification," says Dr Uwe.



Each of the trees had been treated with a biological treatment, with one of them treated with POPUL8. "The first and most obvious observation was that the tree given POPUL8 had significantly superior and stronger root development.

POPUL8 contains several microbes which we know in a laboratory setting show strong inhibition and killing of a range of Fusarium species and isolates, so it isn't surprising that the plant treated with POPUL8 showed little to no level of Fusarium in the sample."

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