



News

April 2022



The next meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held

At the RSL Hall Cnr Leed Street and Doncaster Road On the 13th April at 8 pm

The Speaker will be **Nigel Philpot**, Environmental Officer, Manningham will talk about the Doncaster Hill Community Garden and **Felicity Gorden**, Horticulturist, who runs the garden's volunteer programme will show us how to make Deadly Queensland Fruit Fly Traps.

It is not necessary to wear a mask, but if you feel more comfortable wearing one, please do so.

Committee Members 2022

President: **Pauline Webb** Ph 0409 063 060

Email: doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Past President: **Doug Brewer**

Secretary: **Avril Clark** Ph 0402 478 302

Treasurer: **Toni Myres**

Newsletter: **Albert Schafter**

Anita Luzzza

Esther Sim

Linda Spiers

Ray Brett 0

Gladys Lim

It would be nice to spend billions on schools and roads, but right now that money is desperately needed for political ads."

Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night."

If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past that age."

SEEDS & PLENTY 15% discount

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)

5 litre bag \$10.

20 litre bag \$25. A good buy (normally \$30)

1000 litre bag \$900 a very good buy (50 x 20L bags is \$1250.00)

Please ring Pauline to put in your order. Pay when you collect from her house in April, date to be advised.

Keith Edwards recommended the MycoGold brand of 4 beneficial fungi. Diggers sell 50gm for \$20. Tim Lester who makes it sells 200gm for \$30 or 1kg for \$92.25. As this is expensive I propose people give their expression of interest then, I will arrange delivery on a different month to the biochar for those who wish to budget for both.

At this stage Tim Lester has not set a discount rate but shipping will only be \$10 for the lot.

Also **Keith** recommends **CLYDE COMPOST** The Club is able to purchase this with a 10% discount

It will be delivered (in bulk) to Pauline's house

If you are interested in purchasing some you will need to:

1. Give Pauline your details – name, phone no
2. How many 25 litre bags you would like
3. You will have to bag your own when it arrives at Pauline's (bring your own bags)

What went on at the March meeting

Well first we had an election for President. After the voting was counted, Pauline Webb was elected the President of the Doncaster Garden Club, Congratulations to Pauline and many thanks to Doug Brewer who has served this club so well for many years. He will be a hard act to follow.

The competition on the night was for cut flowers and it was won by Heather Smith, a beautiful arrangement, congratulations Heather. (see photo)



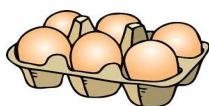
The Competition for April will be for Potted plants

Lastly we welcome new members Dianne Robertson, Paul and Maureen Lucas

.Before that we were entertained by **Keith Edwards, Garden Designer**, who detailed the virtue of many products that he now sells. Some of the members present were fortunate to receive samples of his wares. He spent 12 years at the Diggers Club before his present employment.

He described Australian soils as some of the oldest in the world, needing nutrients. He described the worth of microbes, the need for organic matter and carbon. He mentioned the value of Bio Char, charcoal, microgold who flung dung and Go Go juice. He also mentioned Clydes compost as the best product, Keith was thanked by Pauline for his entertaining talk.

Cardboard egg cartons make great punnets for large seeds. Fill them with seed-raising mix and plant a seed in each section. When they've germinated, cut out the individual sections and plant them in the ground. The cardboard will soon break down in the soil and your seedlings won't suffer transplant shock.



As he arrived home from the pub he noticed his wife ironing her bra and couldn't refrain from commenting "I don't know why you bother with that, dear, your nothing to put in it". She continued ironing and casually remarked, "I often think the same thing when I'm ironing your under-pants"

Treacle Worcestershire Sauce

1.8 Kg Blood Plums
3 Lts White Vinegar
1/2 Kg Brown Sugar
1/2 Kg White Sugar
2 Tspns Minced Garlic
1 Tspn Salt
1/2 Tspn Ground Ginger

Bring all ingredients, apart from treacle, to the boil stirring until sugars are dissolved.
When boiled add treacle and bring back to the boil.

Boil for 1 1/2 hours
Remove any scum from the top.
Blend until smooth.



Vegetables for April : The colder, wetter months in Melbourne are a great time to grow veggies, and now is an excellent time to plant! Consider cabbage, Asian greens like mizuna, tatsoi or pak choi, lettuce, rocket, spinach, carrots, celery, cauliflower, spring onions, leek, onions, radish, turnips and swedes.

The following herbs are perfect for winter staple such as soups, stews, and casseroles. Rosemary, Bay, Sage, Oregano, Thyme, Coriander, Rocket, Mizuna, Chervil, and Parsley



How to survive a Heart Attack when alone.

Not exactly garden advice but worth reading

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about ten seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously.

A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it to regain a normal rhythm.

In this way heart attack victims can get help or to a hospital



Thanks to the Diggers Club for this article

Growing a green manure crop is an easy, inexpensive and low maintenance way of improving the health of your soil. It involves growing a green legume-based crop and digging it into the soil before it flowers, in order to improve the organic content and nutrient profile of your soil naturally.

Ideally grow a green manure crop as a part of your crop rotation. Green manure can be sown in autumn and winter to prepare a new garden bed for your spring vegies.

Read on to learn how to sow and grow green manure crops and browse our range to decide which green manure will be most beneficial for your soil and garden.

Both these kits below are available at the Diggers club.

1 Developed by the CSIRO, this kit contains all the green manure crops you need for a healthy garden. Includes seed packets of Bio Mustard, Clover Trikkala, Clover Dalkeith and Lucerne

2 Pea, Oat and Vetch make a vibrant and enriching autumn green manure for your soil. Premixed for ease and complete with inoculant to boost nitrogen fixing legumes, covers 50m².



Sow the seeds

There is a greater variety of vegies to choose from if you grow them from seed. It's also less expensive, as a packet of 50-100 seeds costs the same as a punnet of 6-12 seedlings.

If you seal and store the packet, you'll have about three years' supply.

Certain vegetables grow better from seed, planted directly where they are to grow, rather than from transplanted seedlings.

Direct-sow broad beans, radish, silverbeet, peas, Asian greens, spinach, parsnip, beetroot and carrot.

You can buy propagating sets to get your seeds off to a good start, but an even cheaper alternative is to re-use seedling punnets as a DIY propagator or mini greenhouse.

Place plastic wrap or a clear plastic freezer bag over the seed container, then seal it. Remove the plastic when the seeds have germinated.

Looking after Indoor plants

Sunshine can be hard to find during winter, but it's necessary to keep your indoor plants thriving. Check the sunlight requirements for each of your plants, and make sure all of them are either within a brightly lit room, or in front of a window that gets plenty of sunlight.

Most indoor plants tend to have originated in tropical or sub-tropical zones, so they like a bit of warmth. But if you have the heating on, it might be too warm! The answer is to avoid temperature extremes: keep your plants out of cold draughts in windows and doorways but, equally, don't stand them on top of, or directly in front of, heaters. One exception to this rule is the cyclamen: it especially loves to be outside on a chilly night – so pop it out on the back veranda before you go to bed.

The humidity drops rapidly in winter, and this effect is exacerbated by home heating, which dries the air. Some plants – ferns, painted leaf begonias, prayer plants and zebra plants, for example – require high humidity to stay healthy. If dry air is a problem, group your plants together and spray a mist on them, or stand them on a bed of pebbles in a tray of water that will evaporate around them. You can also move the plants to areas of higher humidity, such as the kitchen or bathroom, or place a bowl of water near your heater to add moisture to the air.



The most common mistake with indoor plants in winter is over-watering. They do not need as much water as in the warmer months, but they do need some, especially if they are in a hot, dry room. If a pot seems dry on the surface, lift it up and feel its weight – a very dry plant will feel much lighter than a damp one. Push your finger into the soil to a depth of about 5cm – if it is completely dry, then water! Give them a good soaking (let African violets absorb water from the bottom), allow to drain thoroughly, then replace them on their saucers. Never allow them to stand in excess water – and leave them to dry out almost completely before watering again. Cacti and succulents might not need any watering at all through winter.



Warm, dry air can encourage spider mite or scale insects, so keep an eye out for these and talk to your garden centre if they become a problem. Those with smooth leaves will love a weekly wipe-over with a damp cloth to keep them looking clean and glossy.

Doncaster RSL Sub-Branch

Anzac Dawn Service

Monday 25th April 2022

6am start – Outdoor at The Shrine

Finish 6.30am at dawn - followed by
Gunfire Breakfast available with refreshments

Doncaster RSL
Corner Doncaster road & Leeds street
Doncaster East.



Email: rsldoncastersubbranch@gmail.com
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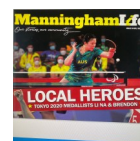
The RSL are looking for people to help sell Anzac badges. If you have any time talk to Liz Madden
Email: appealsdoncasterrsl@gmail.com or phone 0466 026 820

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



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.