

December 2023
48 years of growth
1976-2023



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Upcoming meetings:

The Doncaster Garden Club Committee meeting will be held on
Wednesday 6th December 2023
8:00 pm at 11 Inglewood Close, Doncaster East.

The December Christmas meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on
Wednesday 13th December 2023. Please BYO a small plate to share for supper.
At 8pm at the RSL Hall, corner Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East.

DGC December President's Report

Hello Gardeners All,

On this wet Wednesday at the end of Spring we are still waiting for our predicted 'long, hot summer'! My tomatoes have grown rampantly and need tying up, the cucumbers are starting to lengthen, the potatoes have flowered. The unpopular Asian bitter cabbage has gone to seed (flowered for the bees) and are out, and 2 sowings of radishes matured together which is typical when the 2nd is planted in warmer weather than the 1st. Our 1st zucchini is nearly ready to pick, the pumpkins are gaining more leaves and some beans have survived the wet soil.

Violas, alyssum and other flowers are blooming. The Hydrangea blooms are colouring. There seems to be adequate bees which is great with the threat of varroa mite hanging over the industry.

MEMBERSHIP FEES are due now.

1st of January is the date for the new prices. Singles/Couples \$25 & \$35 now, \$30 and \$40 from 1st January.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS will be updated for 1st January. No older forms will be accepted.

2024 CALENDERS are available at \$7.50 each.

Our 1st 2024 meeting is the 14th February. The Committee is looking forward to another busy year with dine outs, monthly meetings, open gardens at Pauline & Avril's and anyone else who would like to offer their garden for a viewing and a cuppa.

RAFFLE TICKETS at our December meeting will be 2 for \$5 or 6 for \$10. Anita has been out busily collecting gifted items from our many traders who support us.

The Committee wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a relaxing summer break.

Happy Gardening Pauline.

Committee Members 2023

President:

Pauline Webb

Ph; 0409 063 060

Vice President

Gladys Lim

Secretary:

Avril Clark

Ph; 0402478302

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Fund Raising Co-ordinator

Anita Luzza

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Ray Brett

D G C Life Members

Gerda van der Peet

Joanne Driver

Toni Myers

Francesca Kung

Ted Page

Ken Beer

Bev Turner

Doug Brewer

Elsie Carter

Gayle McCann



New Members

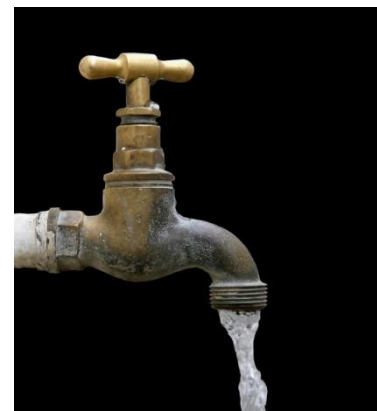
Serey Sok

Glen Speirs

Our November Speakers

WATER!! Such a precious commodity in our large dry island. We are constantly researching ways to use it more prudently...what a shock if we turned on the tap and nothing came out!!! Andrew Fenwick and Jack McDonald, representing Yarra Valley Water spoke to us about recycling water. New housing developments are being plumbed with extra piping (orange) that will deliver recycled water to our properties for specific uses, including our gardens. We are also strongly encouraged to make small changes in our own habits to save water that will collectively make big differences. We should aim to

- Install water saving shower heads.
- Limit the time spent in the shower.
- Don't run the tap while cleaning your teeth.
- Use a trigger hose in the garden.
- Mulch your garden to decrease moisture loss.
- Plant drought tolerant plants whether they be native or ornamental.



COOL ZONE

TASMANIA, ACT, MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, GEELING & MOUNT GAMBIER

FRUIT & VEGETABLES		HERBS	FLOWERS
Asian Greens	Kohlrabi	Basil	Alyssum
Beans	Leek	Chervil	Cleome
Beetroot	Lettuce	Chives	Hollyhock
Broccoli	Melon	Dill	Lupin
Brussels	Parsnip	Mint	Marigold
Cabbage	Potato	Parsley	Nasturtiums
Capsicum	Pumpkin		Poppy
Chilli	Radish		Viola
Carrot	Rhubarb		
Cauliflower	Silverbeet		
Radicchio	Spring Onion		
Cucumber	Swede		
Eggplant	Sweet Corn		
Endive	Tomato		
Fennel	Turnip		
Kale	Zucchini		

(Images: A single carrot on the left; a field of red poppies on the bottom right.)

What's growing in our garden now!!

Hydrangeas

In a nutshell, this is what you need to know about growing hydrangea.

- **Plant type:** Hydrangea is a versatile plant, existing as a deciduous shrub that comes in various sizes, ranging from small to large.
- **Height:** Its height can vary from 0.5 to 2 meters.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are large, measuring approximately 10-20cm in length and 10cm in width. They have an oval shape with serrated edges and are coloured in deep to bright green.
- **Suitable climate:** Hydrangeas can thrive in most climates except for arid regions, where they may struggle due to the lack of moisture.
- **Soil Requirements:** They prefer moist, nutrient-rich soil with good drainage to support healthy growth.
- **Ideal position:** The best location for hydrangeas is in partial shade or dappled light, particularly under trees where they can receive the right amount of sunlight while protecting them from intense heat.
- **Flowering season:** Hydrangeas bloom from November to February, displaying a beautiful array of colours including various shades of pinks, blues, and white.
- **Feeding:** Hydrangeas are heavy feeders, and it's essential to provide them with annual fertilization and mulching using compost or composted manures to ensure they have enough nutrients to thrive.
- **Watering needs:** These plants require consistent moisture, especially during their active growth and flowering periods, so regular and reliable watering is crucial for their well-being.



How to grow from cuttings

Hydrangeas are [easy to grow from cuttings](#) taken during the spring or summer months. Take tip cuttings about 10 – 15cm long, making the cut just below a pair of leaves. Remove this bottom pair of leaves, then cut the remaining leaves in half, to reduce water loss. Plant the cuttings into pots filled with propagating mix and place in a shady but bright spot. Don't let the soil dry out, keeping it just damp but not waterlogged.

Zucchini

Zucchini are a great choice for beginner gardeners as they are quick and easy to grow. They can be enjoyed grilled, baked, roasted, or stir-fried, or made into fritters or zoodles. You can even stuff the flowers! 🍆

According to [Yates Australia](#), Zucchini can be sown from spring to early or mid-summer in most areas, including Melbourne. In warm climates, most Zucchini can be grown year-round. Zucchini need at least 6 hours of sunshine a day, so choose a nice sunny spot. Each plant needs approximately 70 cm of space (70 cm long x 70 cm wide) and growing one Zucchini plant per person will satisfy most of your Zucchini needs. If you don't have a vegie patch, you can also grow Zucchini in a garden bed.



Here are some tips to grow Zucchini in a garden:

1. **Choose a Location:** Zucchini need at least 6 hours of sunshine a day, so choose a nice sunny spot. Each plant needs approximately 70 cm of space (70 cm long x 70 cm wide) and growing one Zucchini plant per person will satisfy most of your Zucchini needs. If you don't have a vegie patch, you can also grow Zucchini in a garden bed.
2. **Improve the Soil:** Improving the soil before sowing seed will give the plants a great start. Soil improvement is as simple as mixing 2 handfuls of Yates Dynamic Lifter Soil Improver & Plant Fertiliser into each square metre of soil.
3. **Sowing Zucchini Seed or Planting Seedlings:** Whether you love the very popular dark green 'Blackjack' Zucchini, or light green pear-shaped Lebanese Zucchini, Zucchini are really easy to grow from seed. The seeds are not too small and are easy to handle. To sow seed, dig 2cm deep holes, 70 cm apart, and place 3-4 seeds in the base of each hole and cover with soil. Gently press down so there's good contact between the soil and the seeds, and then water. Keep the soil moist (but not wet) and seedlings will start to emerge in around 10 days. If multiple seedlings emerge from the one hole, gently remove the smallest, leaving the two biggest and strongest seedlings.

1/2 Price Taxi Vouchers

Craig Green of Aveo told Avril and I that anyone on a level 2 or 3 My Aged Care package is eligible for half Price Taxi vouchers.

You will need to contact My Aged Care and ask to be reassessed to have this added.

This will involve the normal waiting time for an appointment.

For those who cannot drive at night and would like to be at DGC meetings, ask for up to 11 vouchers - whatever you think you will attend. Pauline

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Brendan's Butcher
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(Next to fruit shop)

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Code DGCseeds

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the invoice at the end.



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receives wholesale
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