

October 2025
49th Year of Growth
1976 - 2025



Contact Email: doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

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The DGC committee meeting was held on 2 October 2025 at 7.30 pm.

The next DGC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 8 October 2025**
7.30 pm at the RSL Hall , cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street. Doors open at 7.15pm

Our speaker is Karen Sutherland and she will give us tips on growing Tomatoes.

Committee Members 2025

President:

Pauline Webb

0409 063 060

pauline.pw25@gmail.com

Secretary:

Avril Clark

0402 478 302

doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Vice-President & Speaker

Bookings:

Vacant

Fund Raising Co-Ordinator:

Anita Lizza

Newsletter:

Rohini Padey

Toni Myers

Ray Brett

Esther Sim

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Kitchen Manager:

Reinhard

September Speaker

Kathleen Tants gave a demonstration on how to pot a plant. She spoke about the importance of using clean pots, wearing gloves when handling potting mix and wearing a dust mask if we do not dampen the potting mix. Pots can be cleaned with warm water and a scrubbing brush, and dried.

Pots can then be disinfected with a lavender or eucalyptus oil spray (the spray can be prepared by adding a few drops of oil to water). She noted that plastic pots have rings on the inside which act as a guide. Potting mix should not go higher than the bottom ring so that water does not flow out and enough water fits in the pot.

Kathleen noted that the first step is to add potting mix to the base of the pot, and to mix it a bit to remove any air pockets. She then placed the plant in the pot to see how high it sat before removing it from the pot. She rolled the pot to make it easier to remove the plant. Kathleen did not tease the roots. She advised that this can damage the roots.

She placed the plant on top of the potting mix and added potting mix around it until it was secure. As she worked around the pot, she shook and tapped down the pot to remove any air pockets.

She recommended not pushing down the potting mix so it is not too compacted. Water the plant well and add a layer of mulch to outdoor pot plants. Fertilise regularly. She recommended Seasol Pots and Plants spray.

Kathleen noted that potted plants are supposed to be refreshed after 12 months (usually early Spring) and they should generally be transferred to a pot that is one or two sizes bigger.

Article Courtesy - Georgia Triantopoulos



Hello Gardeners All

it is unfortunate but due to too many ongoing medical issues I am resigning as President of the Club for now. I have greatly appreciated all the extra help many of you have given the Committee during my absence this year and for Avril Clark for stepping up as the President and Committee members taking on extra workload. I will remain Vice President and will continue to book the Speaker's for 2026.

Thank you Pauline.

Do note that BAAG has great specials this month: blood and bone, microgreens and kits, callistamons, pots, all books, and granitic sand - great stuff to lighten heavy soils,

My Double Delight rose has suckered so far from the plant hat I will try to separate it and grow a new rose plant - so exciting. We have had little rain so the garden has needed watering. It has been a dry winter/spring so far. The 26mm I measured for September is half of what plants need.

The potatoes I planted in July after such a warm June have been mulched at least 3 times and are thriving. This week I spent 10 minutes pushing sweet corn seeds into the soil between pairs of plants - my experiment with a variation of the American Indian 3 sisters. I successfully did corn and sweet potato some years ago so this should work.

The sweet potato plants, cuttings pampered on a hot mat across winter were transplanted at the weekend as were the 6 tomato seedlings gifted to me in return for raspberry plants and rhubarb crowns. I will put climbing beans between the sweet potato. The peas planted in April didn't do well but there are more 120mm high coming on. I broadcast a bed with carrot seed saved in autumn and they are growing by the 100s in spite of not being watered enough. The 1st climbing beans are in. I did add sand to the soil.

I was disappointed with the initial broccolini crop but when I was ready to remove the plants they were shooting at the base so I cut the plant back to just above the shoots. Amazingly, I have had a month or so of prolific broccolini to pick. The 3 cauliflowers I grew from seedlings have been disappointing - healthy plants doing nothing. However, one is just, belatedly, starting to grow its flower. I was nearly ready to remove them!

The plum tree has flowered profusely and now has little fruit, the fig trees are in new leaf and a few baby figs - the breva crop which has been dormant over winter. One only has these if the tree was not pruned to hard. The orange tree will burst into flower any day.

The kohlrabi did not do well with the warm winter but the leaves are very edible as are all young brassica leaves. The Bok Choy planted in April is flowering and seed pods are setting.

Soon I will plant cucumber and pumpkin seeds. I have a new cucumber variety: the Peruvian Stuffing Cucumber. It's a slipper shaped fruit for salads when picked young or leave till larger and remove the middle to stuff. It does need a 2m trellis!

Happy Gardening Pauline





49 Years and Growing



It is the 49th year of our garden club and we will celebrate it at the October meeting with birthday cake.

Please join us on 8th October to celebrate this milestone Birthday.

Membership Fees are now due, please refer to the website for details. If you have joined in the last 3 months you do NOT need to renew your membership. Pay in person at the October meeting or pay online as per details below:

DONCASTER GARDEN CLUB BSB 033-365 Account 179681. Use your name as an identifier

Upcoming calendar events:

Following Committee Meeting:	05 November	hosted by Avril Clark, 7.30pm at 62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East
Following Meeting:AGM	12 November	at the RSL Hall, 7.30pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East
Open House at Avril Clark	08 November	Visit the garden at 62 Pinehill drive from 2.30 to 4pm
Following Committee Meeting:	03 December	hosted by Avril Clark, 7.30pm at 62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East
Following Meeting:	10 December	at the RSL Hall, 7.30pm at cnr Doncaster Road and Leeds Street Doncaster East
We will celebrate our Christmas event in December. This event will be catered for by the club. More information in the next newsletter.		

AGM

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 12 November 2025. Please note that we will appoint the Committee members at that meeting. Please complete the nomination form attached. All nominations to join the committee and contribute to the success of our gardening club is warmly welcomed.

Kevin Heinz Grow -Spring Fair

Saturday October 15th

You can buy some wonderful plants for your gardens.

And show your support for the work they do in our gardening community.



October planting Guide



Cool Region

Areas with low humidity with most of its rainfall in winter, hot and dry summers and cold winters. Includes south-eastern Australia, alpine Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

● Fruit & Vegetables		● Herbs	✦ Flowers	
Beetroot	Onion	Basil	Alyssum	Petunia
Broccoli	Potato	Coriander	Begonia	Salvia
Cabbage	Pumpkin	Chives	Carnation	Snapdragon
Capsicum	Silver Beet	Dill	Cockscomb	Verbena
Carrot	Spinach	Mint	Coleus	Zinnia
Cauliflower	Spring Onion	Oregano	Cosmos	
Celery	Squash	Parsley	Dahlia	
Cucumber	Strawberry	Sage	Dianthus	
Eggplant	Sweet Corn	Thyme	Impatiens	
Leek	Tomato		Lobelia	
Lettuce	Zucchini		Marigold	

Embracing the mantra of “Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose” in your garden not only promotes sustainability but also proves to be a savvy and cost-effective strategy. Not sure where to begin? Here are some ideas:

Single-Use Alternatives: Eliminate single-use items such as plastic plant pots. Opt for biodegradable alternatives or invest in durable containers that can be used season after season.

Repurposed Containers: Transform everyday items into charming plant containers.

Composting for Enriched Soil: Create your compost using kitchen scraps and yard waste, providing nutrient-rich soil amendments while reducing the need for store-bought fertilisers.

DIY Garden Tools: Craft some garden tools from salvaged materials - turning old broom handles into plant stakes or repurposing worn-out buckets into watering cans.

For more sustainable ideas, head to our website

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/a-sustainable-gardeners...>

Top tip

Reduce, reuse, repurpose

Add an extra touch of creativity to your garden by transforming everyday items like buckets, wooden crates, or even old boots into unique plant containers!





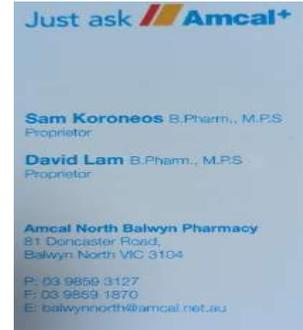
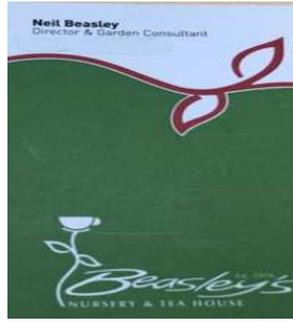
DGC Life Members	
Gerda van der Peet Doug Brewer Ken Beer Toni Myers Gayle McCann	Ted Page Joanne Driver Elsie Carter Bev Turner Franziska Kung

Doncaster Garden Club Inc. Membership 2025

Annual fees are due every October

Please complete the membership form on the Clubs website:
<https://doncastergardenclubaus.com/becomeamember>

Newsletters are emailed every month. For those wishing a hard-copy, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Club Secretary Avril Clark.



The Catalogue can be found online : <https://ryset.com>
 The Club receives wholesale prices which means discounts of upto 60-70%



Please support our sponsors

Let them know you are a member of DGC and appreciate how they help us.