



# Geelong Organic Gardeners

Registered address: 26 Albert Street, Geelong West 3218. Reg. No: A0012071C

## Diary Dates

Newsletter: August-September 2008

Editor: Judy Cameron 0409 417 562 or [lizjoe@pipeline.com.au](mailto:lizjoe@pipeline.com.au)

October- November Newsletter deadline 15th September 2008

## August meeting & AGM

Monday 11th, 7:30pm

It is GOG's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday Party!! Come and celebrate the past and the future. We will have a brief overview of GOG's history and brainstorm about GOG's future. **We invite your ideas on what YOU want from GOG Please bring your ideas and imagination.** There will be giveaways, friends, and plenty of time to share great food, birthday cake and chat.

Please invite any former members you know. A very speedy AGM will be conducted at the start of the meeting.

## September field trip

**Members' Gardens** — details at the August meeting. Would you like us to visit your garden in September? Please ring Trish on 5223-2407 if you would. Remember, you do not need to spruce it up! It is the differences between gardens that are so interesting.

## Waterwise Expo

October Sat 11<sup>th</sup> – Sun 12<sup>th</sup>

Geelong Botanic Gardens

Our display will be near the new Edible Garden, and will celebrate 30 years of Geelong Organic Gardeners. We'll have composting demonstrations, plants to give away, and hope to have a question and answer session.

Please bring your produce and plants to sell on a commission basis.

**We need members** to take a turn at staffing our stall over the 2 days in the display area. Please put your name on the volunteer roster sheet at the next meeting to help or phone Jan Bullock on 5282 4262 or email [janbullock@jc.com.au](mailto:janbullock@jc.com.au) if you can offer some help.

## Seeds of Change

Tuesday, 19 Aug 2008, 7pm

Courthouse Youth Arts Centre

Three of our members will give presentations— more details on page 5

## Memberships are due on September 1st.

This will be your last newsletter if 2008/09 fees are not paid by the end of October.

Please pay at August meeting or post to the treasurer c/- of the address above.

## PARKING—Please make room for others!

Our meetings are so popular, that those arriving later are not fitting into the car park. Please be sure to park as closely as you safely can to the next car, to allow room for more cars

## Ponder this

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.

H.Fred Ale

[www.quoteagarden.com](http://www.quoteagarden.com)

## Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc.

is an informal, friendly, diverse group of people sharing the common interest of growing fruit, vegetables and ornamentals organically, working with nature, not against it.

**Meetings** are held Mondays at 7:30pm in Geelong Botanic Gardens meeting rooms. (see map page 15). Dates for 2008:

Aug 11

Oct 13

Dec 8

## Welcome

### new members:

Nick Carroll—East Geelong

Alan Cooke—Moriac

Judy Denison - Torquay

Samantha Granger—Lara

Amy O'Brien—Belmont

Melesa Osborne—Lara

David Brain—Derrinallum

Alison Broome—Geelong

**We now have 119 membership** and committee cannot do all that needs to be done. Even if not a committee member, we need to consider how we can contribute— see page 10



## Inside this issue:

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# Molasses (source unknown)

## Molasses is a marvel

No gardener should be without a container of molasses in the garden shed. Molasses is a marvel! It works as a carbohydrate source to feed the microbes living in your soil to create a healthier, more complex growing environment. This makes it easier for your plants to fight off disease and take up the nutrients they need. And, because molasses (average NPK 1-0-5) contains potash, sulphur, and many trace minerals, it can serve as a nutritious soil amendment.

Molasses is also an excellent chelating agent. That's a scientific way of saying it is one of those magical substances that can convert some chemical nutrients into a form that's easily

available for critters and plants. It can be applied as a foliar spray to the soil or plants and is also a useful addition at regular intervals to the compost pile. As a soil conditioner, mix 2 tablespoons of molasses per 4 litres of water. As a foliar spray, mix 1 tablespoon per 4 litres of water.

But wait, there's more! A molasses spray can be used to deter caterpillars and other chewing pests. Dissolve one tablespoon of molasses into a litre of warm water and add one teaspoon of dish washing liquid. Spray regularly over the leaves of all plants attacked by caterpillars and other chewing pests. Molasses has also been extensively trialled and found to be a



*Molasses can deter caterpillars*

very effective treatment for nematodes. Dissolve 1 litre of molasses in 4 litres of warm water, allow it to cool and use it to drench the soil.

As if this isn't enough, you can also use molasses to get the rust off those old garden tools. The formula is 2 litres of molasses in 7 litres of water. Put this mixture in a plastic bucket or container and partly cover to help stop evaporation. Leave for about 3 weeks, down by the back fence (because it pongs a bit), until it ferments. It should have a skin on the top, which can be peeled off. Now you can immerse your rusty tools in this solution. Leave for about two weeks before removing them. By then all the rust should be dissolved.

## Store it in the soil, stupid!

*From an article by Jerry Coleby-Williams in Organic Gardener July/August 2008 Page 10*

In 2003, The Rodale Institute published findings of a 30-year scientific trial comparing 'conventional' managed with organically-managed farmland. Included in those findings: "we've shown that organic practices can do better than anyone thought at sequestering carbon, and could counteract up to 40 per cent of global greenhouse gas output" - Paul Hepperly, Ph.D. Research director at Rodales.

Andre Leu, chair Organic Federation Australia: "The important point of this ground breaking research is that the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered is based on what has been achieved through current organic farming practices. This is not theoretical estimate as in some of the tree plantation models, or unproven like the millions of dollars being spent on clean coal or mechanical geo-sequestration trials".

Jerry Coleby-Williams explains how it works: "... mycorrhizal fungi are a critical group of soil micro-organisms to cultivate. These special fungi conserve soil carbon by secreting glomalin, a powerful glue, and using it to bind humus with clay and minerals to form aggregates. Natural carbon sequestration by this mechanism allows organic carbon to steadily accumulate in the soil, rather than being lost as inorganic greenhouse gas to the atmosphere. This humus is a stable form of organic matter that remains in soil after prolonged microbial decomposition, and is an ultimate indicator of soil health. Carbon can be contained in stable humus fractions for more than 1000 years.

*In non-organic farming, artificial or chemical fertilisers (nitrogenous fertilisers especially) accelerate the breakdown of organic matter in soil. Industrially farmed soils have*

*significantly fewer mycorrhizal fungi and are ineffective at carbon sequestration. In fact, they liberate both carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide gases".*

Jerry also points out that conventionally farmed food uses much more increasingly-expensive oil through fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides which will help organic food production to become more competitive. Also, organic farms show more resilience to drought with more humus in the soil.

Read the full article in the current Organic Gardener magazine and see the full story on Rodale's research in

"Regenerative 21st Century Farming: A Solution to Global Warming" at [www.rodaleinstitute.org/20080425/gw6](http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/20080425/gw6)

# The benefits of indoor plants

 (from [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au))

Adjunct Professor Margaret Burchett at the University of Technology Sydney led a number of trials with plants placed inside large airtight glass containers or chambers.

Common pollutant chemicals were pumped into the containers and the researchers were astonished at how much of the pollution was gobbled up – totally gone. It turned out that the microbes in the potting mix in association with the plant were doing the work.

Three large pot plants per room are enough to clean the air to the point where contaminants are negligible.

## Background

Adjunct Professor Margaret Burchett and her colleagues presented their research findings at the International Symposium on Plant-People Relationships held in the Netherlands.

In what Professor Burchett terms a “dungeon” (basement) or window-tight situation, there is a toxic mixture of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in indoor air. Although these compounds are present indoors in low individual concentrations, they are capable of producing toxic symptoms in humans — and the cocktail can be addictive, or even synergistic in its effects.

New paint, carpets, furniture and fittings radiate these VOCs, and Professor Burchett and her colleagues caution that “if you smell that new office smell, you are scenting the toxic VOCs”.

Dominant VOC toxicity symptoms are sore eyes, nose and throat; a feeling of dizziness; loss of concentration; headaches; mild nausea; faint disorientation; and mildly depersonalised feelings. These are the same symptoms present in “sick building syndrome” or “building-related illness”.

Professor Burchett’s research group has shown that a mixture of plant species — including:

*Spathiphyllum* (Peace Lily)

*Howea forsteriana*  
(Kentia Palm)

*Dracaena marginata*  
(Marginata)

*Dracaena deremensis*  
(Janet Craig)

*Epipremnum aureum*  
(Devil’s Ivy)

can achieve a complete removal of VOCs in 24 hours in a closed chamber with no ventilation.

Professor Burchett emphasises that one does not need a “rain forest” to detoxify basement or sealed office areas, and states that plants strategically placed in the work-

place can achieve significant results.

In a British experiment, scientists claim that rats died after being released into small tanks with edge-to-edge new carpets. And in a study conducted for the housing department in the United Kingdom, it was found that pot plants reduced by one third the build-up of nitrogen oxides in houses with gas fires and stoves, which produce these compounds.

A recent Swedish study to improve the indoor environment in an x-ray unit situated in a hospital “dungeon”, demonstrated conclusively that pot plants not only achieved a substantial reduction in total VOCs in the

indoor air but also reduced worker absenteeism by 60 per cent.

According to Professor Burchett, UTS research has confirmed the potential of potted plants as a portable, mass-marketable, integrated biofiltration system to improve indoor air quality.

“Urban dwellers often spend more than 80 per cent of their time indoors, so indoor air quality is a major health consideration. Potted plants will be increasingly used as a flexible indoor biofiltration system, as well as for beautifying indoor spaces.”



## Edible Water Gardens

World-renowned expert Nick Romanowski’s latest book is ***Edible Water Gardens—growing water plants for food and profit.*** (Hyland House, RRP \$49.95)

The book is the first complete guide to edible aquatic and water edge plants worldwide.

The Weekly Times reviewer said “*Research in the book shows an ornamental pond uses no more water than a patch of lawn the same size, so if the pond is planted with edible species, it can be far*

*more productive than a vegetable garden.* You don’t need a large area or big pond either, many edible water plants can be grown in a bucket. Nick runs Dragonfly Aquatics from his property near Colac. The nursery is not open to the public.

For a water plants catalogue send 3 x 50 cents stamps to RMB AB 366 via Colac, 3249 or email [dragonflyaquatics@hotmail.com](mailto:dragonflyaquatics@hotmail.com)

(Note: We are very likely to buy this for our library soon)



# In brief ....

*Diggers Garden Annual (we have a copy in our GOG library).*

**Cut your food bill** by growing your own fruit and vegetables using heirloom varieties. Clive Blazey, CEO, Digger's Club "A trip to the supermarket is a greater threat than the air pollution generated by coal-fired power stations. Purpose-bred hybrids drenched in chemicals, picked unripened and shipped thousands of miles to supermarkets are responsible for up to 30% of CO2 emissions"

**This year Digger's celebrate 30 years** of preserving of heirloom seeds. "Monsanto's strategy for of turning seeds into 'software' via genetically engineered seeds reached its climax in 1998 with its proposed introduction of Terminator technology. Not content with monopoly control of seeds via patents, its plan to genetically modify seed to prevent germination galvanised the Digger's Club into action"

**WA Premier calls for halt to GM foods:** Alan Carpenter called for better labelling and said Food Standards Australia & NZ (FSANZ) should not approve anymore foods for human consumption until independent scientific trials determined the safety of GM foods. "There is also published evidence which highlights health concerns about GM foods, including allergies, damage to vital organs and links to cancer."

*Weekly Times 9/7/2008*

**Shires battle plantations:** The Vic. Government. will not allow planning control over plantation development because there is a review underway. Councils are concerned at the loss of irreplaceable farmland & depopulation of country areas. In South Australia, plantations can be refused on the basis catchments could not give up more groundwater.

**Sequestering carbon.** Dr Christine Jones, founder Australian Soil Carbon Accreditation Scheme, said increasing the carbon content in soil by 0.5 per cent on just 2 per cent of Australia's farmland could account for our entire yearly carbon emissions of 603 million tonnes. *It's easy if we can get people to change land management practices"* . (see also article on Page 2)

Meanwhile, Australian livestock emissions from methane fell by 4 per cent between 1900 and 2006 due to the drop in sheep numbers. (**Editor note:** just one of the benefits to the environment of eating less meat!)

However, Meat and Livestock Australia say there is an ever-increasing demand globally for beef and Dairy Australia say milk products exports are booming.

**Future of drink driving:** A USA scientist has developed a portable fuel station that can produce ethanol from discarded alcohol in a few hours (great for bars and restaurants). Cost: around 10cents for 4.5 litres. Sugar, water & yeast can also be used and takes about a week to ferment into ethanol fuel.

**No GM register:** The Vic. Gov. has refused a request from Apiarists and the Australian Grain Harvesters Assn. for a public register of commercial GM crops to deal with the risk of contamination. The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) said a register would expose farmers to potential action from GM opponents.

**Chemical cocktail alarm.** Waterways downstream from a Gippsland dairy district had the highest levels of antibiotics detected anywhere in the world. Massive amounts of oxytetracycline were recorded 30kms upstream from the Gippsland Lakes. UK scientists have found fish may change sex with exposure to low levels of chemicals.

*Weekly Times 2/7/2008*

**New 'carbon sink' forests** are a tax-break rort and a threat to food production in Australia say a group of Liberal, National & Green senators . Meanwhile, a Senate committee on food security for Australia will report in November.

**Monsanto** promise to double the yield of corn, cotton and soy beans in the face of the growing food crisis with their GM seeds and the Vic. Dept of Primary Industries chief scientist Sir Gustav Nossal says he welcomes this commitment that would have major benefits for developing nations.

**New Zealand** has accused Australia of breaching world trade rules by imposing a quarantine plan for NZ apples.

However, under World Trade Organisation rules Australia has the right to set its own level of protection against imported pests and diseases.

**Controlling weeds** costs farmers \$1.5 billion a year says the Australian Bureau of Statistics and it could cost more this year after the drought with the movement of fodder bringing weed seeds to new areas and onto bare ground.

**Free range?** Choice magazine calls for national regulations on 'free range' claims. They say big egg producers Nova, Pace Farm and Manning Vale supplying supermarkets have chooks that may have never see the light of day.

*Victorian Landcare Winter 08*


**Biological farming:** The Rodale Institute in the US have been organic no-till cropping using a cover crop (rye, oats, wheat or barley) which is rolled before planting the summer crop of maize or soy. No chemicals are used and the soil is getting better every year through increased biomass for the soil microbe and carbon being sequestered through the crop rolling process.

*Weekly Times 16/7/2008*

**Vegetable glut:** A warm autumn is blamed for an oversupply as growers in Victoria and Tasmania plough cauliflower, broccoli and lettuce back into the soil. Meanwhile growers claim supermarkets are putting their house brands out to 'global tender' forcing local producers to the wall in trying to compete with imports undercutting Australian brands by up to 350 per cent.

**Quarantine failure:** Private testing by local growers show flower importers are flouting Australian laws by not dipping flowers in chemicals designed to kill the plants and any diseases and insects they may be carrying. The Howard Gov. stopped the checking here by Australian Quarantine Inspection Services asking that it be done in the country of origin. The VFF is compiling a list of potential diseases & fungi that could enter Australia.

**George of the bungle:** George Bush has upset US asparagus growers by saying German asparagus was 'fabulous'.



They were already cheated off with their government for allowing asparagus from Peru to come into the country duty-free. This was to encourage farmers to grow this crop instead of the raw product for cocaine. George Bush Senior famously upset broccoli growers in 1990 when he said he hated the vegetable as he was forced to eat it as a child.

*Weekly Times 25/6/2008*

**Dodgy fruit:** A local grower has seen Chilean plums and Egyptian apricots labeled as Australian in overseas supermarkets. He is upset that our clean green image is obviously a selling point but our fruit has not yet 'cracked those markets'.

**Bees at risk:** A Federal Gov. committee has recommended \$50 million a year be spent on research and border protection for the bee-keeping industry which is vital to our food security.

*Weekly Times 18/6/2008*

**'Land grab':** Corporate investors are gearing up to buy large tracts of farmland say real estate agents. Global food prices and shortages are the drivers

*Weekly Times 18/6/2008*

**Dry winter:** a Japanese long-range forecaster predicts little rain in eastern Australia from now until October, with above-average falls from then until Feb.

**GM wheat:** John Brumby announced to the BIO 2008 conference in the USA that drought-tolerant GM wheat varieties tested in Victoria are returning yields up to 20 per cent higher than conventional varieties.

*Weekly Times 28/5/2008*

### **Coles food tactics**

At an ACCC inquiry into grocery prices Coles admitted to rejecting fruit and vegetables 2 days after delivery leaving growers empty handed; lodging planning objections as a way to delay competitors; lowering prices when competitors began business and dropping prices on their home brands in areas where there was an Aldi store. They also admitted that their better quality house brand milk and their cheaper one were

sometimes the same milk. However, the more expensive one was supposed to be sourced locally, but Smart Buy milk could come from anywhere in Australia.

**Autumn rainfall** in Victoria has fallen 40 per cent since 1950 says the CSIRO. Sea-surface temperatures to the north of Australia and changes in atmospheric circulation patterns over the sub-tropical Indian Ocean were key factors in the decline.

**GM labelling dismissed:** Dr Lucy Carter, Qld University says genetically manipulated food does not need to be labelled as there is no proof that it is harmful to humans. She also said GM products were now so widespread that it was impossible to tell if a meal today contained GM ingredients. She said voluntary labelling may be used by producers seeking a marketing advantage. The article was accompanied by a photo of a Woolworth's donut label showing Soy Flour (Genetically Modified) listed in the ingredients.

**Recycling tractor emissions:** Following trials in Canada, a Mallee farmer is recycling his tractor exhaust emissions through his air seeder and into the ground while sowing. Ian Linklater said he went this way as "*chemical and fertilizer companies have done the mercenary thing and raised the price of their product to unsustainable levels*". Early results in Canada show increased crop growth and soil nutrient levels. Mr Linklater said he would like to raise the carbon level in his soil from 1 to 1.5 per cent. Mallee Sustainable Farming and the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Authority are involved in the research.

## **Notes from our June Meeting**

**Andrew Lucas** is aiming to make the Bell Park / Bell Post Hill area the 'Bell Transition Town' in response to peak oil. Transition Towns are developing world-wide to be self-sufficient, self-reliant communities to cope with higher costs of fuel and food. (We have a new library book on the subject).

**Steve Findlay** suggests harvesting the evening dew by laying straw over grass

and mowing to capture moisture for the compost ready for the long, dry summer coming up.

**Keith Shrimpton** says he has had a notice at his front gate where they sell eggs offering people to come in and get free apples – and only 2 have taken the offer!

### **The Question/Answer session:**

**Q: Lots of vinegar flies around Aerobin, (composter) what to do?**

*A: Add dolomite, or, if too wet some dry material.*

**Q: Elizabeth has a Lady William apple which she is not fond of and wondered what she could graft onto it and when.**

*A: You can graft any type of fruit onto plant of the same family e.g. same seed/pip. Any apple, or a quince, and graft before bud burst – usually July.*

**Q: Katie has a chook who pecks her feet**

*A: Sounds like mites. Give a good wash, scrub with toothbrush and apply any vegetable oil or Vaseline.*

## **Seeds of Change**

Tuesday, 19 August 2008, 7:00 PM  
Courthouse Youth Arts Centre, Cnr Lt Malop and Gheringhap Sts, Geelong

### **\*Climate Project Presentation**

Kathryn McCallum (trained by Al Gore), with the latest Australian data

### **\*Transition Town**

presentation by Andrew Lucas

### **\*Geelong Organic Gardeners**

presentation by Rachel Brown

### **\*Public Transport** in this region by

Paul Westcott

### **Stalls, information, displays**

Entry: Gold coin donation.

Supper provided

For more info call Nancy Donkers  
5241 6601

### Proudly supported by:

Reclaim the night collective  
Geelong Sustainability Group  
Barwon South West Regional  
Womens Health

# Heritage seed companies

by Member Katie Gillett

Recently I have been doing some research (on the internet and talking to other interested people) and have found these seed companies that may be of interest to fellow GOG members.

If anyone else has any other seed companies that I have missed out on please email me at [bom\\_clothing@yahoo.com](mailto:bom_clothing@yahoo.com). I will add more to the newsletter as I find them.

Meanwhile, let at least one plant from a 'crop' go to seed and collect them and bring them to the next meeting. Locally grown seed is the most suited to the Geelong environment. It will also increase diversity, which is extremely important in this day and age of genetic engineering and seed companies patenting seed varieties.

Enjoy! **Katie**

Seed Company	Address	Phone	Web Page	Email	Comments
The Lost Seed	PO Box 321 SHEFFIELD TAS 7306	(03) 6491 1000	<a href="http://www.thelostseed.com.au">www.thelostseed.com.au</a>		Has a selection of very rare vegetables, and great free download of sow 'what when'
Eden Seed	M.S. 905, Lower Beechmont 4211	(07) 5533 1107	<a href="http://www.edenseeds.com.au">www.edenseeds.com.au</a>		Lots of information botanical and taste
New Gippsland Seeds and Bulbs	Lower Beechmont 4211		<a href="http://www.newgipps.com.au">www.newgipps.com.au</a>		An enormous range of plants and seeds
Diggers			<a href="http://www.diggers.com.au">www.diggers.com.au</a>	<a href="mailto:info@diggers.com.au">info@diggers.com.au</a>	Fantastic company become a member (you get free magazine / catalogues) and help them in their work. Two sites, St Erth (near Daylesford) and Heronswood (Mornington Peninsula)
Heronswood Melways map 159 C9	105 Latrobe Parade, Dromana, 3936	(03) 5984 7321			SPRING FLOWER FESTIVAL: 1st-4th November 2008
St Erth Melways map 609 E11	Simmons Reef Road, Blackwood, 3458	(03) 5368 6514			SPRING FESTIVAL: 19th-22nd September 2008
Phoenix Seeds	PO Box 207 Snug, TAS,	(03) 6267 9663	Only postal		Very unusual seeds
Kings Seeds	PO Box 2785, Bundaberg, QLD 4670	(07) 4159 4882	<a href="http://www.kingseeds.com.au">www.kingseeds.com.au</a>	<a href="mailto:sales@kingseeds.com.au">sales@kingseeds.com.au</a>	
The Italian Gardener	PO Box 8050, Gundaroo, 2620	(02) 6236 8173	<a href="http://www.theitaliangardener.com.au">www.theitaliangardener.com.au</a>	<a href="mailto:info@theitaliangardener.com.au">info@theitaliangardener.com.au</a>	Italian vegetable seeds
Greenpatch	PO Box 1285, TAREE, 2430	(02) 6551 4240	<a href="http://www.greenpatchseeds.com.au">www.greenpatchseeds.com.au</a>	<a href="mailto:enquiries@greenpatchseeds.com.au">enquiries@greenpatchseeds.com.au</a>	
GreenHarvest	52 Crystal Waters, M.S. 16, MALENY 4552	(07) 5494 4676	<a href="http://www.greenharvest.com.au">www.greenharvest.com.au</a>		Don't sell many seeds but their website is a fantastic resource for organic gardening and green housekeeping. Good suppliers of unusual garlic and potatoes
Select Organic	M.S 905, Lower Beechmont 4211		<a href="http://www.selectorganic.com.au">www.selectorganic.com.au</a>		Organic Seeds
Nindethana Seed Service	PO Box 2121 Albany WA 6331	(08) 9844 3533		<a href="mailto:ninseed@iinet.net.au">ninseed@iinet.net.au</a>	Largest suppliers of native seed
Cornucopia Seeds & Plants	PO Box 427 Kerang 3579	(03) 5457 1230	<a href="http://cornucopiaseeds.com.au">http://cornucopiaseeds.com.au</a>		
Royston-Petrie Seeds	PO Box 1152 Mudgee NSW 2850	(02) 6372 7800	<a href="http://www.roystonpetrieseeds.com.au">www.roystonpetrieseeds.com.au</a>	<a href="mailto:sales@rpseeds.com.au">sales@rpseeds.com.au</a>	Enormous Basil and tomato range look in herb section



# Seed Sowing Guide



Southern Victoria	Aug	Sep	Oct
Artichoke, Globe suckers & seed	x	x	x
Artichoke, Jerusalem	x	x	x
Asparagus crown	x		
Beans, Broad	x	x	
Beans, Bush		x	x
Beans, Climbing			x
Beetroot	x	x	x
Broccoli	x	x	x
Brussels Sprouts	x	x	x
Cabbage	x	x	x
Capsicums	x	x	x
Carrots	x	x	x
Cauliflower	x	x	x
Celeriac		x	x
Celery	x	x	x
Chicory		x	x
Chives	x	x	x
Choko		x	x
Cress	x	x	x
Cucumber		x	x
Eggplant			x
Endive	x	x	x

Garlic, cloves	x		x
Gherkins			x
Kale		x	x
Kohlrabi	x	x	x
Kon Choy			x
Leeks	x	x	x
Melons	x	x	x
Onions	x	x	x
Parsley	x	x	x
Parsnips	O	x	x
Peas	x	x	x
Potatoes	x	x	
Pumpkin	x	x	x
Radishes	x	x	x
Rhubarb, Crowns	x	x	x
Rhubarb, Seed		x	x
Salsify	x	x	x
Silverbeet	x	x	x
Spinach	x	x	x
Squash		x	x
Swedes	x	x	x
Sweetcorn		x	x
Tomatoes	x	x	x
Turnips	x	x	x

**O plant in Aug to prevent hard centres**

## Library helpers needed!

Our librarian Jennifer Hornsey seeks the services of two or three good people to assist with recording in that busy period at the end of the meeting when members are returning and borrowing books. Training provided!



## Please return those library books by

the next meeting—others may be wanting to borrow them.



## Worms

*Soil with a good population of earthworms will also have a large population of bacteria, viruses, fungi, insects, spiders and other soil animals. This is called a biota as related to soil. It will also be rich in humus.*

*Most disease-producing bacteria require an oxygen-free (anaerobic) environment, whereas the environment created by earthworms is oxygen-rich (aerobic), so life around worms becomes very difficult for these nasties.*

**From Earthworms in Australia, by David Murphy, available from our library.**

# AGM - Committee of Management Elections

## **Please consider nominating!**

Being a member of Geelong Organic Gardeners Committee of Management gives the opportunity not only to make a difference to the organisation, but also to develop valuable skills which can be useful in other areas of life. It can be very satisfying and rewarding – and fun!

All committee positions fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Our Constitution states that our Committee of Management (CoM) must consist of a minimum of the Officers of the Association (Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We split the role of Secretary in three: Minutes Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, and Membership Secretary), and a maximum of 10 including the office bearers.

The Committee **meets only five times per year**, for 3 hours. Meetings are held once every two months on the second Monday of the odd numbered months i.e. the months that we do not have a General Meeting, from 7p.m. We do not meet in January.

WE NEED PEOPLE TO NOMINATE FOR COMMITTEE POSITIONS. In particular, we need:

**TREASURER** – Graeme, who has very ably held our financial reins for some years, would like to hand over.

**LIBRARIAN** – Jenni, who has done a marvellous job in this role, will not be continuing.

**MINUTES SECRETARY** - Jan Bullock may be willing, but due to family responsibilities, cannot make it to all meetings. Anyone else? All options considered, including job sharing.

We also need **ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**.

Anybody is welcome to nominate for any position.

If you would like more information, please ring Trish on 52232407

## **What is the job of the Committee of Management?**

The Committee is accountable for managing decisions and taking responsibility for Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc on behalf of the members. This means making sure the club is well run, making best use of available resources. It includes organising speakers and field trips, and ensuring that all financial and legal matters are properly managed.

We aim to ensure that meetings are well run, and that everybody's valuable time is used most effectively. It is important to work as part of the team, and to prepare for meetings. This includes reading minutes and agendas, which are sent out prior to the meetings, and coming to meetings prepared to contribute your thoughts and ideas. It is recognised that each of us has different skills and experience, and training and support is available. We have developed

many tools and pro formae to make the various jobs of the organisation quicker and easier.

## **What are the responsibilities of the specific positions?**

### **Chair**

Providing principal leadership and responsibility for the management of GOG.

Ensuring efficient and effective committee meetings; having a good working knowledge of GOG constitution and relevant legislation.

Keeping informed of all GOG activities.

Acting as the contact person for the organisation, and occasionally the spokesperson.

Preparing meeting agendas;

Generally co-ordinating and making sure things are done, including ensuring that committee members receive support and training when needed.

### **Minutes Secretary**

Taking minutes at committee meetings, typing them up and sending them out to committee.

Taking brief minutes at general meetings.

**Correspondence Secretary** - Receiving all GOG mail, sending correspondence and information on behalf of GOG, reporting on correspondence.

### **Membership Secretary**

Maintaining membership list and members' register

**Vice-Chair** - Filling in for the Chair in the event they are not available to do the job.

### **Treasurer**

Monitoring the organisation's income and expenditure.

Sending out financial reports to committee prior to committee meeting,

Making recommendations to committee on financial matters,

Drafting the annual budget, compiling the annual financial report.

Keeping the financial records and paying bills for the club.

**Librarian** The librarian takes responsibility for ensuring that the following aspects of the library are managed (*currently we have several members assisting the librarian*) including:

Purchases for the library (within budget and according to GOG policy);

- Acknowledgement of donations to library;
- Covering and cataloguing of new books; cataloguing of new magazines and journals;
- Repair and maintenance of library items when necessary;
- Brief reviews of new books for newsletter;
- Management of library loans system including loans and returns and staffing of library at meetings,
- Following up of outstanding loans etc.

*We now have policy on library purchases, based on a survey to find out what members want.*

Whilst according to our Constitution the librarian and newsletter editor do not have to be committee members, it works far better if a committee member takes on the role, so that business can more effectively be dealt with at committee meetings when necessary.

**Newsletter Editor** – compiling our two-monthly newsletters, having them printed, and emailing and posting them

**NOMINATIONS** must be in writing, signed by 2 members and the person being nominated, and must be delivered to the Secretary of GOG not less than 7 days before the AGM.

**PROXY NOMINATIONS.** Our Constitution states that each member is entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed on the Form of Appointment of Proxy

## Nomination Form

We, the undersigned nominate

.....

(name)

for the position of

.....

Signed (1) .....

Name:.....

Signed (2) .....

Name: .....


I agree to this nomination:

Signed:


.....

(person being nominated)

DATE .....



## FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY



I, .....

(name)

of .....

.....

(address)

being a member of Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc.,

appoint.....

(name of proxy holder)

of.....

.....

(address of proxy holder)

being a member of Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc., as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the annual/special\* general meeting of Geelong Organic and to Gardeners Inc. to be held on

.....

(date of meeting)

and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of/against\* the following resolution (insert details of resolution).

.....

Signed



# Can you help?

There are many ways you could contribute to GOG even if you are not on the committee.

Even small things make a difference. We need members to do all of the following things:-

Come early to a meeting to help set up tables, chairs, etc (**especially to set up the Sales Table**)

Staff the welcome table

Stay back after the meeting and help pack up the tables, etc (**especially to pack up the Sales Table**)

Bring plants or produce to the sales table

Supervise the sales table

Bring food to share for supper

Set up the supper

Welcome new members and visitors, show them around and introduce them

Bring the guest speaker a cuppa

Bring a small gift for a door prize

Help with the library

Donate library books

Do occasional word processing

Bring items to sell on commission (your own plants, crafts and produce etc)

**WE NEED A TEAM EFFORT  
PLEASE SPEAK TO A COMMITTEE  
MEMBER IF YOU CAN DO ANY OF THESE  
THINGS, OR IF YOU HAVE OTHER IDEAS  
ABOUT HOW YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE**

# Sharing to expand the GOG family!

By Member Liz Raimondo

In early 2007 I received a text from GOG friend Andrea Buckley asking if I could spare any fertile eggs as she had a broody hen!! Lucky enough the hens had been productive and we could spare some for Andrea's clucky hen to try her



luck! My family had successful hatchings last year (5 new hens!!) and one of our hens "Nonna Ag" herself was sitting calmly in the maternity wing in anticipation of new family members. And so we all waited. There had been some mighty summer thunder storms and windy weather while

our hen was sitting and also as I suspected some of the eggs had been eaten so the original 7 eggs placed under "Nonna" had dwindled to 4 and so we waited. Finally a few cheeps were heard in early February and sure enough one little chick emerged, "Fluffo" (see picture above Nonna Ag and Fluffo at week or so old) Fluffo found his voice in the form of a nice crow earlier this month and is now living happily with my brother's family in Drysdale! Andrea's hen successfully hatched 5 chicks of which 2 were roosters (who went to market and her happy brood of 8 are producing about 4-5 eggs a day. By sharing we expand the GOG family!!!!

## BIO-DYNAMIC GARDENERS ASSOCIATION INC.

### INTRODUCTORY FIELD DAY

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008, Inverleigh, Vic.**

**Learn how to:** Store & use the B.D. preparations, cultivate the soil, to improve soil structure, prepare the soil to receive the B.D. preparations at the most beneficial time, make compost using B.D. principals & the six B.D. compost preparations, improve the health, humus and microbial activity in your soil, use the Biodynamic sowing chart, (More Info available at GOG Meeting)

**Cost** \$50.00 single, \$80.00 couple,  
Concession. \$30.00 single, \$50.00 couple

For further enquiries: Darren Aitken on 03 52651055

## July field trip

About 40 people had an inspiring day at Freshwater Creek biodynamic farm, (home of member Mary Rose Coleman) and Freshwater Creek Steiner School. Mary Rose and Brett were wonderfully generous and hospitable, even providing pumpkin soup and damper for us. I e-mailed Mary Rose to thank her and ask for the recipe for Brett's yummy damper (see below) and she said, in part "It was a pleasure to share that with everyone. I was overwhelmed by the interest, enthusiasm and just the nice group of people."

### WHOOOPS!

In the last newsletter, I said the Freshwater Creek Steiner School was "designed by award-winning Third Ecology Architects (member Glenn Rodgers, who has been our guest Speaker on grey water reuse, is a director)". I have since learned that this is not correct. The building that Third Ecology designed has not yet been built; the existing school building was designed by a different firm of architects (I am sorry; I do not know which one). I apologise for this error and any impact it may have had. PS. FYI, Glenn is no longer with Third Ecology. He now has his own practice, "Zero C" (C = Carbon)

Trish

**Brett's Damper** 4 cups wholemeal spelt flour, 1 cup plain white flour, 1 cup SR white flour, tbslp salt, 1/4 cup olive oil, 1 1/2 - 2 stubbies of beer. Mix all together in bucket, knead until mixed. Form a round loaf and place into hot camp oven and cook slowly for 2 hours in coals or until cooked.

## The Multi-Function Chicken

thanks to Ingrid Hindell for passing this on

One of the principles of Permaculture design is that each element on a farm should have more than one function; for example, a well designed roof can provide you with clean water, give you power and heat your water, or it can provide you with food while giving your shelter. You may be surprised to learn that chickens also fulfill this principle.

Most people's ideas about chickens' usefulness are usually limited to eggs and meat, and perhaps to using their composted manure in the garden. The other functions that chickens can perform almost make them valuable enough to the typical smallholder or farmer without their direct contribution to the food basket.

Chickens eat bugs in all three stages – adult, larval (caterpillar), and egg – not to mention slugs. They also eat seeds, including weed seeds. Let your chickens loose in your garden in autumn after you've harvested everything you don't want pecked to the ground. The chickens will gobble up every weed seed, pupa and slug they can find, cleaning up your garden for next spring. You can also let them out in early spring when weed seeds are starting to sprout and bugs are becoming active. Using them in the fall and spring should reduce your weeding and bug-hunting throughout the growing season.

If you have an orchard, let your chickens loose at the end of the season. They'll eat the diseased windfall fruit, reducing next year's problems, and they'll find any bug pests wintering over in the grass. Use 60 to 100 chickens per acre in your orchard.

You can also use chickens to reduce fly populations that affect your cattle or dairy cows. If you pasture your herd using intensive rotational grazing, bring the birds in three to four days after the cows have been in each paddock. The chickens will tear apart the manure to reach fly eggs and

pupae. In the process, they'll spread the manure around the field, which benefits from more even fertilization. Your cattle will have fewer flies and fly parasites bothering them, which will reduce their stress levels, reduce parasite treatment costs, and likely increase meat or milk production.

If you raise mostly layers, move them around in a portable chicken coop, which can be built using scrap materials. The birds make quick work of the fly eggs each day, forage on the grass, and then return to their coop at night. If you raise broilers, you can move them around in "chicken tractors" – ten foot by ten foot cages with no bottoms, light enough to be moved by one person using a two-wheeled dolly. Each tractor can hold up to 50 birds. A good rotation design will ensure that no part of the pasture receives too much fresh chicken manure, thus reducing "nutrient" management problems, including the need to compost large amounts of manure.

If you raise your chickens more conventionally, using a permanent coop, consider attaching a greenhouse to it. A north-facing greenhouse will warm the coop during winter days, and the heat from the chickens will moderate the greenhouse temperature during the cold nights. Also, the carbon dioxide produced by the chickens will be used by the plants in the greenhouse, and insects will be eaten by the birds. Remember to use an air filter to reduce the feather dust in the air.

Chickens can also be used to "rototill" a strip of land where you want to put a new garden. Fence in the area you wanted tilled, then throw down some grain. The chickens will scratch at the soil to reach the seed, and in the process, they'll loosen the top layer of soil.

Chicken feed costs can quickly add up if you have a lot of birds; as well, many feeds are medicated. Evidence is also mounting that some feeds, including pet foods,

contain diseased animals and even pets. (For more information on this topic, read *Food Pets Die For: Shocking Facts About Pet Food* by Ann N. Martin of London, Ontario.) To reduce your reliance on feeds, you can create a self-feeding forage system for your chickens. Along the south or west wall of your coop, fence off a large area. I recommend that you also plant a dense hedge-row so that you can eventually remove the fence for use elsewhere. Subdivide the area into several smaller sections, with a run from the coop door past each section.

Plant a different crop inside each section, including amaranth, comfrey, mulberry, and carragana (Siberian pea shrub). You can experiment with other crops to determine which ones your chickens love. If you use the taller, late-maturing shrubs and grains, grow shorter crops in those sections as well. Ensure that you have enough sections (or large enough sections) that your chickens don't destroy all the plants growing there.

Every day or two, open the door into one of the sections, then open the door from the coop to the run leading to the sections. The chickens will enter and peck away at the comfrey leaves, the amaranth seed, or the mulberry fruit for as long as you let them. Don't forget to toss in any slugs and bugs you find during your gardening. Allow the plants in each section time to regenerate before letting your birds back in.

I said earlier that the other benefits of keeping chickens almost make them valuable enough without their eggs and meat. The real bonus comes from the price premium you'll receive for your products because your chickens are raised free-range. Not only will you have saved money on inputs (feed and medication) and time (less weeding and bug-hunting), people will pay you extra for the privilege – and pleasure – of eating eggs with dark yellow yolks and chicken breasts that taste like chicken used to taste fifty or more years ago.

# In Coralie's autumn garden

by member Coralie Jenkin



mixed cleome seedlings, then weeded out the white and pink as they developed. The following year the self sown cleome began to appear in my nature strip (which is liriopie and woodchip), but no longer in my garden as the snails ate all the delicious young shoots. I transferred 'hundreds' of the self-sown seedlings back to the garden, protected them from the snails, but to no avail, the snails pushed over the protective barriers to get to the cleome. How do they survive in the nature strip? I've no idea: there are plenty of snail trails across the footpath but the cleome flourish.



The tamarillo tree is about 4 years old. It grew very quickly and I prune it heavily each year ( however, Louis Glowinski\* recommends pruning lightly). I have heard that the tree doesn't last long and Glowinski advises to put in a new plant every 2 years as it is prone to disease.

I eat the delicious fruit straight from the tree (and share it with Kiwi neighbours who do likewise). One of the New Zealanders said that his mother used to crush the fruit and freeze it, then serve it with icecream. Glowsinki suggests: *"halve the fruit and sprinkle with sugar. Place in a shallow pan and cook for 30 minutes in a moderate oven until soft. Serve with a dollop of cream if you like."* He gives various other uses, including fruit salad, tamarillos used in place of tomatoes, to make jam and even wine.

The other fruits I enjoy are the feijoas and the medlar. I think that the medlar looks and tastes beautiful. I have attached a photograph of the medlar (above). I wasn't able to photograph the feijoa - the fruit dropped while I was away. It is beautiful.

\* *Louis Glowsinki is the Author of The complete book of fruit growing in Australia (in the GOG library)*



The purple flowers on my nature strip are self sown, unwatered, uncared for. They are 'cleome' which escaped from my garden (I am often asked whether they are marijuana, they have similar leaves). they look beautiful for about 6 months, then get pulled out. Cleome come in three colours, white, pink and purple. I bought a box of



I visited a garden show in France (magnificent in comparison with garden shows I've been to here), which included lots of things for children. This was set up for children to play with the huge balls, there was a long queue of children wanting to play. *Coralie Jenkin*

# Final Chair's Report

## from Trish Jardine to members, August 2008.

As we celebrate our 30th birthday, I am pleased and proud to report it has been yet another great year for Geelong Organic Gardeners. Our membership continues to steadily increase, and has more than doubled in the last four years. Currently we have approximately 120 family memberships, and have a wonderfully diverse range of members.

We've had a wide variety of speakers and field trips, with all meetings and trips well attended. Once again, we participated in the Barwon Water/ Geelong Botanic Gardens Waterwise Expo; we also participated in the Living Green Event, Geelong West Community Garden's 20 year celebration, and supported many other organisations, events and campaigns in a variety of ways. GOG provided speakers for Rotary, Landcare, United Nations Association of Australia's Climate Change Conference, Australian Tax Office, Corio Waterwise Expo, and more.

We led a collaboration of a number of other community groups in hosting a very successful public event in April showcasing Cuban permaculturist Roberto Perez, as part of his Australian tour, preceded by a fundraising showing in March of the film "Power of Community". These events were well received by the public, informed and inspired many people, and raised \$1600 towards continuing the work of the Cuba Australia Permaculture Exchange.

We have continued to collaborate with Geelong Botanic Gardens on the exciting foodgardens@gbg, and have recently partnered them in planting an Edible Garden in the centre of the gardens. The current superintendent's residence will become an education centre integrated with the Botanic Gardens. The Working Group plans to utilise the backyard as a permanent demonstration that sustainable food growing, including composting and worm farming, can be easy. The aim is have people who see it say "I can do that!"

As part of our response to a comprehensive survey of members, the Committee has committed to running courses in basic organic gardening, not only for our members, but for interested members of the public. Thanks very much to Rachel Brown, who picked this up and ran with it, developing curriculum, approaching neighbourhood houses and running courses; and to Paul Smith, who generously operates training from his own farm.

We have continued to develop our systems, so that as our membership increases we operate efficiently and effectively and our assets are secure. Our sales table continues to be very popular, as does our seed bank, library, newsletter and of course our suppers (thanks Pam!). We allocated our already excellent library a generous budget, and there have been a number of exciting additions this year. As GOG continues to develop rapidly, it is at a very exciting turning point; we all need to think carefully and plan strategically for what we want it to be, for our members and the wider community. Please consider this, and bring your ideas to the meeting.

I have been privileged to be Chair of this wonderful organisation for 7 years. It has been a great pleasure and wonderful learning experience to work with such a great diversity of passionate, committed, talented and skilled people. Thank you to all our fabulous committee members, and many others too numerous to name. Thank you ALL very much for your contribution to making GOG what it is; please keep getting your hands in the dirt, and inspiring others to grow food where they live - it really does make an enormous difference to our Universe, and to future generations!

## Notes from member talks at our June meeting Judy Cameron

**Jan Bullock** has lived on 5 acres at Lara for over 3 years. She has lived in France and experienced organic Farmers Markets. Lara has low rainfall, so they first put in 60,000 litre water tanks. Lucky to get 'seconds' sleepers from the Geelong-Melbourne train line for free. Used them for raised garden beds and included spent potting mix from local nursery. Pretty much feed the family on what they grow in veges and fruit trees. Do a lot of bottling of fruit. Planted lots of garlic and sold excess in local fruit

shop, not happy with price she got and what fruit shop owner charged. They swap eggs with the next door neighbour for veges. Husband brings home all food scraps from work, and neighbours leave some too. They have a serious Hansa chipper which deals with tree prunings and vegetable scraps. Practices crop rotation. Harlequin beetles were a pest but they congregated in the wood heap and were cremated in the wood fire. Possums don't bother them as there is plenty of native vegetation.

Have chicken wire fences to deter the rabbits and huge hares. Tried drying fruit outside but it took forever and the birds enjoyed them. Now uses an electric food dryer.

**Pam Bolton** has been a member since 2003 and has always gardened including having backyard chooks. She is the local guru on chook behavior. In autumn they start to moult which alarms some people. They need plenty of protein to grow those feathers. Two tablespoons of cod liver oil per week in the food for 6 chooks.

Continued on Page 16



# Organifieds—free ads for GOG members



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**FREE:** Bob Healy has Tree Onion Bulbils  
that develop on top of the stem. When  
planted they develop into a clump of 4 or 5  
small mild onions and the stem has the  
bulbils at the top.

Phone Bob 04 2741 4070

**WANTED:**

Bob is hoping someone may have some  
Thornless Youngberries (see number above)

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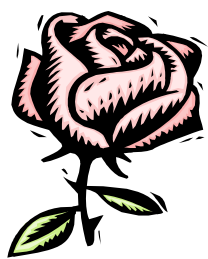
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## LARA ROSE GARDEN



Roses; vegetable & herb seeds & seedlings;  
native trees & grasses; olive trees; mulches;  
water tanks; Aerobin composting bins. Prun-  
ing; tree & stump removal; mulcher hire: gar-  
den construction.

John Purtill,

310 Patullos Rd, Lara

5282 8555 or mob 0418 354500

**LILY FLAX**

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

**Katie Gillett**

*Horticulturist/Landscape Designer*

5229 4502 or 0405 569 622

email: bom\_clothing@yahoo.com

## GOG Committee 2007/08

### Chair/Correspondence Sec:

Trish Jardine 5223 2407

Vice Chair: Rachel Brown 5240 3463

### Minute Secretary:

Matthew Walters 0428 628 925

Treasurer: Graeme Webb 0409417562

Librarian: Jennifer Hornsey 5229 5674

Library Loans: Jan Bullock 5282 4262

### Committee Members:

Jen Harriott 5243 6167

Quill Walker 5247 0676

Geoff Leaman 5244 0155

### Seed Bank Curators

Pam & Terry Bolton 5253 2406



Geelong Organic Gardeners meet in the Geelong Botanic Gardens meeting room—marked with an X on the map—



# About Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc.

**Meetings** are held at 7:30pm on the second Monday of the even numbered months (rescheduled if this falls on a public holiday) in the Geelong Botanic Gardens meeting rooms. (see map above)

Field trips are generally held in odd numbered months, except January.

### Membership Fees

are due on September 1st each year.

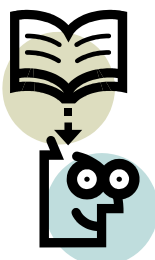
\$26 General / Family \*

\$18 Concession \*

**\*discount of \$6 if newsletter emailed (in full colour rather than black & white)**

New members paying from June get 3 months free membership.

Members receive 6 newsletters a year and are entitled to use our library, seed bank and sales tables.



### Library

Members are entitled to borrow from the Geelong Organic Gardeners shelves up to 3 books per meeting, one current magazine and an unlimited number of past editions. **These must be returned by the following meeting.**

Friends Of The Botanic Gardens books, and those of other groups sharing the library area, are not for loan but may be referred to on meeting nights. These must be returned to the correct position on the shelves.

### Meeting Sales Tables

Members donate excess produce and plants to raise funds for the club. These are sold after the meeting has ended. (Please price all items before placing them on the table!)



**Commission sales** Members may bring their produce and home

made products (no commercial items) to sell, giving 10% commission to the club.

### Seed Bank

Members donate seeds which are for sale at the meetings at a nominal price.



**Newsletter Articles** are gladly received by Editor Judy Cameron 0409 417 562 or e-mail [lizjoe@pipeline.com.au](mailto:lizjoe@pipeline.com.au)

### Registered address:

26 Albert Street  
Geelong West 3218  
Phone: 5223 2407

**Disclaimer:** Every effort is made to contribute reliable information in our newsletters, however Geelong Organic Gardeners and its committee accept no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any information, articles, advertisements or opinions expressed as these may not be the views of our committee or Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc.

Notes from June Meeting.....Continued from Page 13

Worm prevention all year round: a peeled clove of garlic in the chooks water and grated carrot in their food. Bedding: wood shavings is best. Hay is a good haven for lice. Clean pens every 3 weeks or so. Rake it out on a tarp, add the wood ash from the fire and lime and compost.

Feeding: Food scraps is not sufficient for good eggs. Must have a cup of food per chook per day. Chooks will not over eat, birds will take any excess. Pam like Barastoc layer pellets in the morning and a seed mix at night. Rooster spurs must be attended too. Catch him, wrap him in a towel.

Aggressive birds: Stockholm Tar solution. If pecking, buy and paint their bottoms. Remove and isolate for a few days, return to pen and they have lost their status as boss.

Lice: grow wormwood and dust with Pesticide. Only buy poultry from reputable breeders.

**Bill Nicholson** who joined the Victorian Composting Association in 1956 spoke on rock dust and paramagnetism. A plant is diamagnetic, soil is paramagnetic. The greater the difference between these the better the plant growth.

Electromagnetic radiation is produced by lightning strikes – around 6000 per hour around the world – sending out the waves into the atmosphere. These radiations are absorbed by rock dust in the soils which send out another wave which affects the microbes in the soil and stimulates plant root growth. Rock dust can be procured from a quarry – the one at Anakie is the most magnetic and beneficial. Astronauts developed 'altitude' sickness from living out of the earth's atmosphere with no electromagnetic radiation. They now produce it 'artificially' in the space crafts.

**COP** for organic gardening:  
Compost, **O**rganisms, **P**aramagnetism

## SENDER

26 Albert Street Geelong West, 3218



**GEELONG ORGANIC  
GARDENERS INC.**

REGISTRATION : A0012071C

PLEASE  
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ME  
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