

Geelong Organic Gardeners



OCT 2019

It's that time of year! (Pic Goshen)

Editor: Goshen Watts

Next Meeting: Monday, 14th Oct
Doors open 6:30 for 7.00pm start

**Geelong Organic
Gardeners Inc.**
Reg: A0012071C

OCT MEETING

- Barbara Peek to discuss her impressive and productive garden in East Geelong.
 - Helena Buxton to talk on Open Garden's Victoria.
- Note GOG are visiting both Barbara and Helena's Gardens as a field trip on Nov 3rd.*

"GOG" is a diverse group of people sharing the common interest of gardening organically - working with nature, not against it.

- Summer Planting - Gavin
- Open Forum
- Supper and Trading Table.

As always, please bring excess produce/plants to donate to the trading table, and supper contributions: (homemade, bought, or fresh from the garden!)

PLEASE NOTE **MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!!**

Renewals are due on 1st of Sept, payable at the August meeting each year or via direct deposit:

Geelong Organic Gardeners

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633000 Account: 102186137

Don't forget to add your name when paying!

General/family: \$24.00 p/a Concession General/family: \$12.00 p/a

There is no need to fill in a membership form for renewal.

Coming to the meeting?

A Friendly Reminder list:

- Please return library books.
- Bring something for the supper table.
- A list of seeds, produce, some money and a bag/box.
- Surplus plants, seedlings, fruit or veg - it's a great tradition in GOG to share.
- Helping with the setting up and packing up is always appreciated.
- Please park as closely as you safely can to the next car, to allow room for more cars in the car park.

Please note: As we are in the grounds of the GBG, please bring any plant material in a closed bag.

Field trips are generally held in odd numbered months (except Jan)

Meetings are held at 7:00pm on the second Monday of the even numbered months (rescheduled if this falls on a public holiday) in the Geelong Botanic Gardens meeting rooms.



Clickable link!

Geelong Organic Gardeners
PO Box 3023
Waurin Ponds, 3216
www.gog.org.au



News & Events, Random Pic

By Goshen Watts

Welcome to our new committee members:

- **Rosie Bright** to fill **Treasurer** position.
 - **Emily Swanson** to fill **General Secretary**
- (Noting that other committee members will assist with the general organising, and other admin tasks).

Many thanks to Rosie and Emily who have stepped forward to help the club fill these important positions.

Membership Secretary remains vacant. Peter is continuing to cover this for now; but if anyone can step forward to help out that'd be great. Just basic admin/pc experience required.

Also - Don't forget about Sunday.

Click the Image to go straight to the website.



DIARY DATES 2019

Please support these GOG and related events.

GOG Events in Red

Sunday 13th October	Sustainable House Day (Geelong Region) https://www.geelongsustainability.org.au/shd/
Monday 14th August	GOG General Meeting @ Geelong Botanic Gardens meeting room
Thursday 17th October	Intergenerational Afternoon Tea at the Geelong West Community Garden (Geelong Seniors Festival)
Sunday 20th October	Transition Streets – How and why to transition to a Plant Rich Diet http://transitionstreetsgeelong.org/workshops/
Sunday 3rd November	GOG Field Trip (Garden Visit) to Barbara's + Helena's in East Geelong
Sunday 17th November	Transition Streets – Sustainable Transport Options http://transitionstreetsgeelong.org/workshops/
Monday 9th December	GOG December Meeting

General Meeting Speakers: Barbara & Helena

For General meeting Mon 14th October

For the General Meeting on Monday -

Come along to hear these about these two magnificent gardens in East Geelong. Barbara & Helena will be talking about their gardens and related topics, like the Open Garden Scheme of Vic.

GOG members have also been invited to visit both gardens for our (Sun 3rd) November Field Trip. Address details and more information will be forwarded direct to members via email.



Barbara Peek

Barbara and David Peek live on a large block in East Geelong, which was originally the site of a nursery. In the 40 years or so that they have been living there, they have planted a very productive garden which includes all the usual fruit and vegetables you would expect to see, along with some more 'exotic' varieties such as an avocado tree and a macadamia tree, both of which are very productive.

By preserving excess produce, Barbara and David enjoy their home grown produce year round. Barbara is a longstanding member of the Geelong Garden Club and is also an active member of the Eastern Hub food swap.

Helena Buxton's

This truly beautiful garden is a hidden treasure at the end of a private lane, surrounded by twelve properties yet invisible from the main road. Dating back to 1875, Arundel was once the last house marking the journey from Geelong to Drysdale. Over the past century housing development has hidden it from view.... This is an old fashioned garden containing many things that will please the avid gardener. It is a place where it is easy to forget time, a place to immerse yourself in the pleasures of gardening.

With heaps to see... these two gardens are going to be a delight to visit in early November.

**November 3rd field trip
will visit both gardens....**



Seeds and Info

*"Anyone ever seen this before?
Pulled a broccoli and look at its root system.
Lots of little plants growing and they taste delightful".*

El President, Brendan, posted this photo on Facebook... but since no answers were forthcoming, your ed decided to do a bit of research, and other members might also be interested (or be able to offer any of their own experience).

Unfortunately, Brendan, the Prognosis is bad, or at least not great. Looks like it's **"club root"** disease - technically "Plasmodiophora brassicae" a 'slime mould' type organism that can persist in the soil for many years.

Some basic tips / info I found out:

- Can result in very poor harvest
- There is no 'cure'... but:
- Encouraging more soil organisms (good compost and plenty of good mulch) can help 'suppress' the disease.
- Plant resistance varieties.
- Destroy effected plants (ie, do not compost).

Goshen

Source: <https://www.growveg.com.au/plant-diseases/uk-and-europe/brassica-club-root/>



Seed Bank Update

Tell them we're the Ash to take on Blue Bird, Long European, Red Black, and the others!

Variety	Cooking	Stake	Early/Mid/Late	Height	Characteristics	Fruit
Beefhook		Y	Mid	Sturdy bush 1 - 1.5M	Misty flesh. Won't tolerate over 32C. Good for slicing.	Large - 10-12cm - up to 500gms
Black Russian		Y	Early	Minimal pruning	Doesn't cope with summer heat	4 - 6cm - fruit almost black
Black Cherry		Y		Vigorous climber	Large clusters of dark, coloured cherry tomatoes	To 2.5cm. Rich flavour 70 days to harvest
Blue Bird		Y	Mid/L	2.5M	Red, plus shape	medium
Burnley		Y	Early to mid 2/3 before	Body, large 2 - 2.5M	Crimson globular fruit	To 5cm
Sunscrop						
Green Grape	Cooking			Vigorous but not a large plant	Heavy cropping. Pick green for cooking. Sweet, meaty - good for soups and cooking.	5cm
Hatagan	Cooking	Y		Tall woody vines. Likes hotter weather.		Large - 250 to 500gms 65 days to harvest after transplant
Oxheart						
Mini Roma	Cooking & salads	N		Also called "Red Grape" and "Cherry Roma"	Good for salads and cooking.	Oblong cherry tomato. 72-80 days to harvest after sowing
Monstrous		Y	Mid and late	? 1 to 1.5M	Fruit over long period, until weather cools	Medium size - 4 to 5 cm 60 - 90 days to harvest
The Sorcerer		Y		Bushy 1 - 1.5M	Low water requirement	2 - 6cm. Most fruit deeply lobed
Tigerella		Y	Early	Hardy, vigorous, high yield, not very tall bush	Sweet, good flavour. Tolerates cool nights	5cm orange fruit with stripes. Harvest 85-100 days after sowing
Tilly Tomato *						
Tom's Large Cherry Tomato		Y		Hardy, vigorous	Sweet, mild flavour	Large cherry tomatoes - late
Red and Black **						
Indigo Apple **		Y	Mid and late	1.5M	Will continue ripening late in season	Immature fruit is purple. Ripens to red with purple shoulders. at least 75 days to harvest.

* Named for granddaughter
** "Red and Black" may be "Indigo Apple", renamed by Diggers Club

Alana 39 2m V large fruit

Members seed offer:
Birdland: Just \$3 each.
GOG Seeds: 50c - \$1

Here's some pics as a quick way to update what we have in stock for the meeting. Thanks to Gabrielle for organising our seed collection. Contributions to our Seedbank are welcome.



GOG is very pleased to be able to offer Ben Keon-Cohen Birdland seeds on a regular basis at our meetings. These will be offered at a 50cents discount to all attending the meeting. At just \$3 each, well sized packet with good growing information.

- Seeds are germination tested
- Heirloom and unusual varieties
- 100% Organic and true to type

For the full range, you can visit www.birdlandseeds.com (although to get the discount, you need to purchase what's available at the monthly meetings).

Field Trip Report - Lara & Roraima Nursery

By Emily Swanson

Those who braved the wind and rain for the September GOG field trip were rewarded with the delights of the Roraima Nursery in Lara.

“Nursery” really doesn’t cover it... it’s more of a sculpture garden! The owner clearly has a passion for large scale sculpture made from recycled industrial cast-offs. The effect is magical. There is also a 2 acre display garden landscaped entirely with succulents, with walking trails that reveal one wonder after another, including a large billabong teeming with frogs.

As someone who has never had much interest in succulents, my eyes were opened to the amazing variety, beauty and landscaping potential of these drought hardy plants.

This dose of inspiration was followed by the nearby Kevin Hoffman walk, a beautifully landscaped walking track along Hovell’s creek that showcases a unique collection of native plants, sculptures, birds and wildlife.

Kevin’s wife Beverley generously gave us her time and insight into the history of the garden, followed by a tour of her own amazing garden. A gardener’s delight, well worth the trip to Lara.

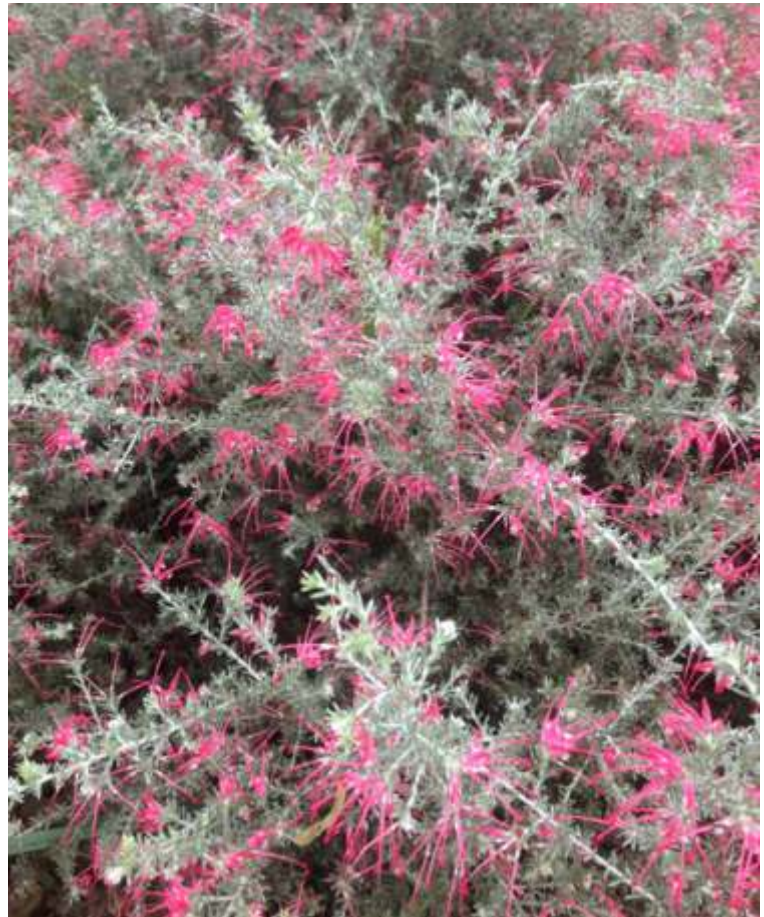


Field Trip Pics - Continued

Roraima Nursury

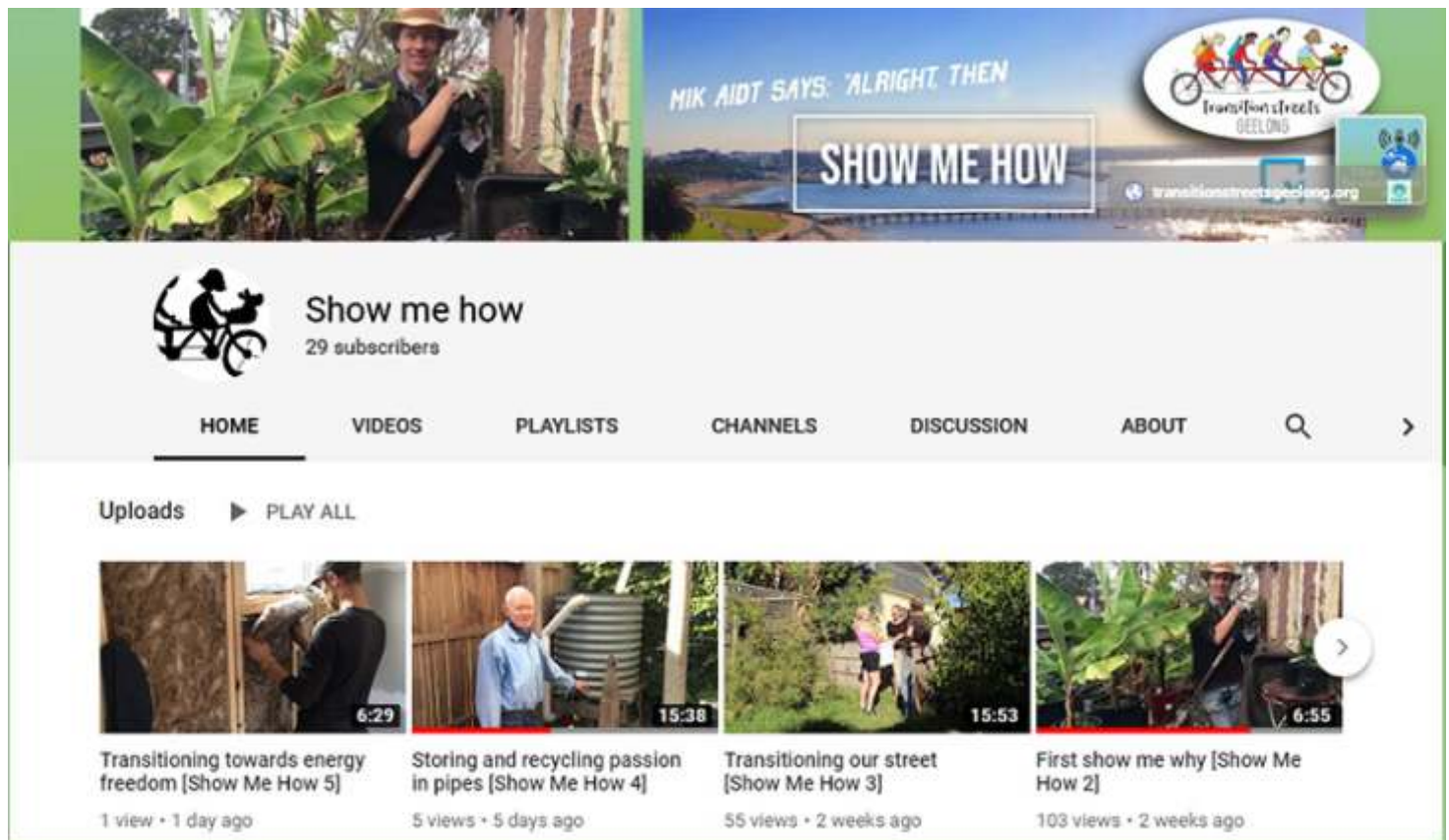


Kevin
Hoffman Walk



Transition Streets - "Show Me How" Video series

Videos By Mik Aidt



Of Interest to members might be these "Show me How" short videos (featuring locals from Geelong), which came out of a project for Transition Streets. Climate and sustainability communicator Mik Aidt (host of the Sustainable Hour on the Pulse) was given the task of creating a series of videos focussing of course on what you can do around your own house and garden to improve your life and comfort, while lowering your impact and emissions.

<https://climatesafety.info/showmehow/>

[Go direct to the YouTube Channel here](#)

Barwon Water Update

Thankfully, the rain has come back... not sure for how long. Storages are climbing slightly above last year, which is encouraging. However Barwon Water have stated that while we're safe from water restrictions this summer, a drier climate ahead combined with a higher population could result in increased pressure to Geelong's water supply in as soon as 2030. More information on any plans or community consultation (on future water projects) by Barwon Water will be announced in the coming months. Goshen Watts

Geelong region water storages



If graph is a bit hard to read - just go to the latest version at:

<https://barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/water-storages/geelong-region>

My rainfall data... an abysmal start of the year, followed by a nicely wet winter... Fingers crossed that rainfall continues at least a bit in the late spring...

Month	2017	2018	2019
Jan	26	59	2
Feb	44	2.5	6
Mar	56	23	11
Apr	159	12	3
May	26	71	110
Jun	10	50	87
Jul	38	44	32
Aug	53	32	47
Sep	81	27	34
Oct	29	26	
Nov	43	25	
Dec	43	47	
Total (mm)	608	418.5	332

From our Friends at the Beekeepers Club...

Sent in by Helen De Lange

GEELONG BEEKEEPERS CLUB Inc. A0051603G

FOR HOBBYIST AND PROFESSIONAL BEEKEEPERS

INTRODUCING DR AMY-MARIE GILPIN

Ecologist, Pollination Biologist - Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

The Geelong Beekeepers Club is excited to announce **Dr Amy-Marie Gilpin** will be our guest speaker at our October meeting.

Dr Gilpin will be discussing climate change and its effect on pollinators and pollination.

Dr Gilpin is an ecologist with research interests in pollination ecology, global change biology, behavioural ecology, invasion ecology and agroecology.

Dr Gilpin is particularly interested in both pure and applied ecology and employs a variety of techniques such as large scale manipulative field experiments as well as manipulative glasshouse



When?

Friday 25 October 2019, at 8.00 pm

Location:

Belmont Masonic Centre,
25 Regent Street, Belmont.

Tickets:

Cost: Entry is free for financial members of Geelong Beekeepers Club.

The discount code will be emailed to members prior to the event.

Non-members \$5.00 plus booking fee.

Seats are strictly limited. To book your seat, please go to:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BFPWN>

GEELONG BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC.

Belmont Masonic Centre,
25 Regent Street,
Belmont VIC 3216

Website: geelongbeekeepersclub.org

Like us on Facebook:



E-mail: info@geelongbeekeepersclub.org

Seasonal Veg Growing Tips (OCT-NOV)

By Gavin Gamble (from last years, no it's never going to change...)

Asparagus, Artichokes and Rhubarb:

These plants love being spoilt with lots of manures, compost and water. Watch out for snails with young asparagus, especially. Use a torch for snail patrol (and not just for the asparagus). The aim with asparagus is to really build up the plants for a few years before you do the cropping. Can you resist?

Alliums

Good time for leeks from seed as they wont go to seed until the following spring and mature blue-grey leeks in the frosty winter garden are a beautiful thing- to see and eat. Use them instead of onion when cooking, fantastic. You can use the Russian garlic like this too. Planting leek seedlings now might mean they bolt to flower too early. Leeks also transplant very well.

Legumes

Broad Beans really need support to withstand the windy days. Start thinking summer beans now.

Brassicas

All go, but there are some varieties of the major brassicas such as cabbages and cauliflowers that have been bred to grow far better in the hotter months.

Root Vegetables: Carrots, beetroot and parsnips.

Fresh seed and warm weather. Grow slow-growing parsnips for the colder months, but beetroot and carrots for as soon as possible - and do successive sowing.

Curcubits

Don't plant too many of the one plant! Few families need more than two zucchinis. Cucumbers really are best grown off the ground. Find a use for that old bed and try and get them growing as a vine.

Solanums

Growing new tomato plants from seeds or even cuttings until February is a worthwhile practice. Many solanums and curcubits send out roots a long way so you need to mulch and water the area and not just at the base of the plant (unless grown in pots).



<i>Southern Vic planting</i>	Oct	Nov	Dec
Artichoke, Globe suckers	x		
Artichoke, Globe seed	x	x	
Artichoke, Jerusalem	x		
Asparagus crown			
Beans, Broad			
Beans, Bush	x	x	x
Beans, Climbing	x	x	x
Beetroot	x	x	x
Broccoli	x	x	x
Brussels Sprouts	x	x	x
Cabbage	x	x	x
Cabbage Kai & Bok Choy			
Capsicums	x	x	
Carrots	x	x	x
Cauliflower	x	x	x
Celeriac	x	x	x
Celery	x	x	x
Chicory	x	x	x
Chives	x	x	
Choko	x		
Cress	x	x	x
Cucumber	x	x	x
Eggplant	x	x	
Endive	x	x	x
Garlic, cloves			
Gherkins	x	x	x
Kale	x	x	x
Kohlrabi	x	x	x
Kon Choy	x	x	x
Leeks	x	x	x
Lettuce			
Melons	x	x	x
Okra			
Onions	x		
Onions, Spring			
Parsley	x	x	x
Parsnips	x	x	x
Peas	x	x	
Potatoes	x	x	x
Pumpkin	x	x	x
Radishes	x	x	x
Rhubarb, Crowns	x	x	x
Rhubarb, Seed	x	x	x
Salsify	x	x	x
Shallots, cloves			
Silverbeet	x	x	x
Spinach	x		
Squash	x	x	x
Swedes	x		
Sweetcorn	x	x	x
Tomatoes	x	x	x
Turnips	x		

Foodswaps & Farmers Markets

FOODSWAPS

Fantastic for swapping excess garden produce, and fruit from overlaid trees. Also valuable for building local community, sharing of skills and resources

How they work? Simply bring along your home-grown produce, put it on the swap table and take whatever you think is a fair exchange. It works on an honour system so there is no money needed. If you don't have much veg to bring, then consider things like jam jars, seeds, seedlings, or even bake something.

Geelong & District Foodswaps

Cloverdale Food Swap - 3rd Sat, 9.30-11am
167 Purnell Rd, Corio.

Norlane, Last Fri each month, 3 - 5:30pm
Norlane Community Centre

Manifold Heights - 1st Sat, 9.30-11am
Manifold Heights PS, Strachan Ave, Liz Hines 0418501998

East Geelong - 1st Sat, 9:30-11am at Eastern Hub, 285A McKillop St, East Geelong.

Grovedale - 3rd Saturday, 9.30-10:30am
Grovedale Community Centre, 45 Heyers Rd

Bannockburn - 4th Saturday, 9.30 - 10.30am
Station Café carpark (near railway line).

Bellarine Foodswaps

Drysdale Harvest Basket Food Swap, 1st Sat.
Springdale Neighbourhood Centre, 17-21 High St Drysdale.

Port Produce Swap 2nd & 4th Sat, 11-12pm (Apr-Aug)
Portarlington Neighbourhood House

Queenscliffe Produce Swap, 3rd Saturday of the month,
10am - 12pm. Tobin Dve Queenscliff, Carolyn Williams 5258 3367

St Leonards Food Swap 4th Saturday of the month,
9:00am - 11:00am. Progress Association Hall, Murradoc Rd
St Leonards 3223 VIC Australia Tina Grimes 0407 529 409

FARMERS MARKETS

Make sure you try and support these local markets, which often encourage sustainable and organic growing practices.

Geelong Farmers Market

2nd Sat, Little Malop St

South Geelong Farmers' Market

1st and 3rd Sundays, 9am-1pm, 200 Yarra St Geelong

Highton Farmers' Market (was Newtown FM)

4th Saturday of every month, Barrabool Rd

Pako Farmers' Market

2nd Sat of every month; West Park,
207 Pakington St.

Golden Plains Farmers' Market

Bannockburn, 1st
Saturday 9am - 2pm

Bellarine Community Farmers' Market

Ocean Grove. 3rd
Saturday 9am - 1pm

Drysdale Community Market

3rd Sunday
(October through to May each year)

Portarlington Market

Last Sunday of the month all year round.

Torquay Farmers' Market

Every Saturday, 8.30am-1pm, Surf Coast Shire offices
carpark, Merrijig Drv

Winchelsea Farmers Market

1st Sunday of every month, 8am-12pm, Winchelsea Bridge.

Ballan and District Farmers Market,

2nd Sat , 92 Inglis St.



MAKERS / GROWERS

Geelong Waterfront Makers and Growers

First Sunday of the month - all year round.
10:00am - 2pm

The Farmer's Place - Farmers' Market

Last Sunday of the month; all year round.

Other regular weekly markets are worth checkout too:

! **Beckley Park Saturday Market**

! **Geelong Showgrounds Sunday Market**

! **Belmont Sunday Market**

Also try these websites for the latest info:

<http://farmersmarkets.org.au/markets>

<http://www.mymarketsvic.com.au> +App available.

Any corrections or suggestions to the info on this page, please let the ed know!

Checkout the new digs!

SWAP anything homegrown or homemade.
All homemade food must be labelled and ingredients listed due to the center's health regulations.

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Swap is held third Saturday of every month. 9.30am - 11 am

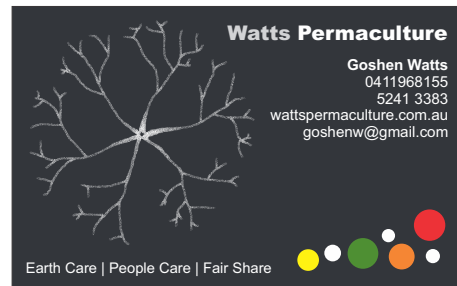
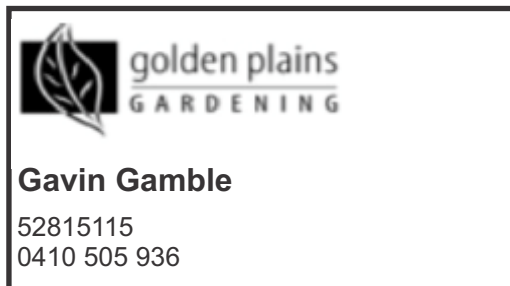
Call 52 754 415 or 0417435492 for more info

Checkout our group on facebook "Geelong seed & plant swap"

End Page

Newsletter content welcome! Please email a week or so prior to the general meetings.

Support our members gardening related enterprises:



GOG Committee

Chair	Brendan Bolton	0403872676
Treasurer	Rosie Bright	0431 589 179
Vice Chair	Gavin Gamble	0410 505 936
Correspondence & Minutes Sec.	Emily Swanson	0409 658 325
Library	Trish MacKenzie	0400 221 964
Newsletter Editor Contributions:	Goshen Watts goshenw@gmail.com	0411 968 155
General Members:	Steve Findlay	0408 641 458
	Deb Watkins	0408 218 997
	Peter Field	0422 548 871
	Helen De Lange	



I wanted to re-post this one... I think it's worth a special mention; While many avocado trees are out there (including 2 young ones at mine), it's great to see some actually fruiting...! This one by Barbara Peek, in East Geelong.

[Random pics for this page are welcome, just email to the ed.]

Membership and General Info:

Membership Fees are due on 1st of September, payable at the August meeting each year or via direct deposit.
\$24 General / Family and \$12 Concession

Memberships can be paid electronically to Geelong Organic Gardeners at Bendigo Bank (BSB 633000 A/c: 102186137). Don't forget to add your name when paying and also complete a membership form for our records.

New members can join on a prorata basis, bringing them in line with the annual membership date. Members receive 6 newsletters a year and are entitled to use our library, sales tables and to attend all the meetings and field trips. 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. Please return them to the correct position on the shelves.

Meeting Sales Tables

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

Commission Sales and Discount Seeds

Members may bring their produce and home made products (no commercial items) to sell, giving 10% commission to the club.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Geelong Organic Gardeners aim to provide resources and a social and educational network to maximise the practice and the enjoyment of organic gardening; both for our members and to encourage and promote organic gardening practices in the wider community.

Geelong Organic Gardeners promote sustainable horticulture and a sustainable lifestyle concentrating on generating expertise in urban agriculture. We seek to work with allied groups in the interests of a healthy and positive future for people and the environment.

To this end we do not support:

- the use of non-organic pesticides and insecticides
- the use of synthetic fertilisers and other products derived from non renewable sources
- the farming or consumption of genetically engineered foods.

The Geelong Organic Gardeners define "organic" consistent with the Australian Organic Standard.

