



Geelong Organic Gardeners

Eagle Point Star Apple Buds (Helen)

Editor: Goshen Watts

Note...

GOG Meetings and Field trips are cancelled until further notice.

Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc.
Reg: A0012071C

Spring Edition

- Small Edition this time around
- Zoom Meeting AGM report - Quiz etc
- GOG Updates
- Bees
- Harlequin Bugs
- December Meeting advance notice: Penny Woodward will present to us on a few topics. (To be confirmed whether meeting will be zoom or at our regular location at the GBG meeting room).

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

PLEASE NOTE MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!!

Renewals are due on 1st of Sept, payable 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.

For new members, the form is on our website.

*Note: If you have trouble paying online, please contact a committee member to see if there's an alternative.



Apple Blossom - just brilliant this year. Remember that you'll need to get onto coddling moth (if you're able to control it) before the fruit sets (is around Pea sized). We've done an article on Coddling Moth before, see if you can find December 2019 for an Article by Mark Hoffmann. Actually, it's on the GOG Website. <https://gog.org.au/newsletters/>

Clickable link!

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



Editor's Note

This edition is both late and small. You see our house is getting a bit of a reno... which started... well on the day of the GOG AGM. Which means I'm back and forth and rather busy. So have completely run out of time to sit down and actually DO the newsletter (well until Today). It's been impossible to focus on anything 'creative' at a computer while tradesmen are doing their thing, all while assisting in some aspects of the build, saving and re-purposing materials from the skip (no small job, I assure you), etc. Tomatoes are getting a bit potbound in the Greenhouse. Getting them into the ground is the next job.

Hope everyone's Spring gardens are going great. Certainly nice to have some moisture about, and things are (slowly) warming up.

Cheers, Goshen.

GOG Magazines

Rosie sent me a list of GOG mags available... but sorry I'm just putting in this small note. Please get in contact if you'd like to arrange to borrow some!

Shredded Paper anyone?

Name: Susan Stent

Email: stent3@bigpond.com

Subject: GOG Contact Form

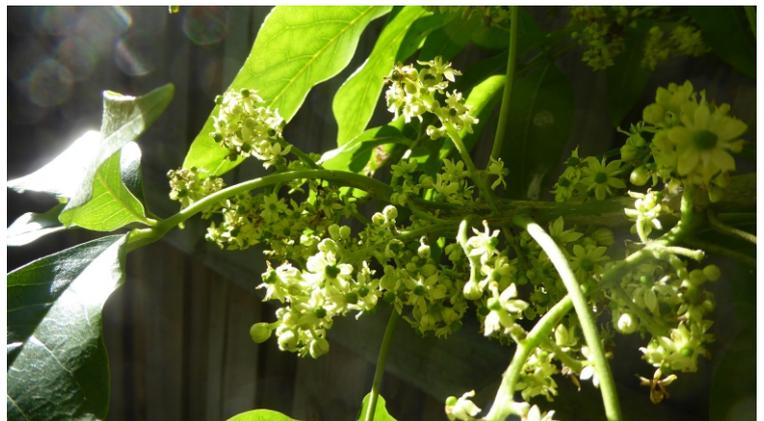
Date: October 7, 2020 @ 2:37 pm

Would any GOG members be able to make use of shredded paper? Sue sent us a message, and you can get in touch with her directly if you could use it.

Unusual Fruit By Helen DeLange

White Sapote ([Casimiroa edulis](#): [Rutaceae](#))

After Lina mentioned her sapote at our last GOG meeting, I went out to have a look at mine. My sapote has been in the ground for around 10 years and I have never seen it flower. Well! It has decided to flower this year! The tree is covered in tiny flowers. I will have to wait a while to see if any fruit develop. I'll provide an update in the next newsletter.



White Sapote Flower Buds

Crabapple Eagle Point Star

I grafted this crabapple onto an existing crabapple tree in our garden. Eagle Point has an attractive magenta blossom and interesting fruit, the flesh of which has a red blush, and is also supposedly nice eating. It was found growing on the side of a road in Gippsland near Eagle Point in Victoria.



Eagle Point Star apple blossom



Eagle Point Star Apple Flesh

source: yalcafruittrees.com.au

GOG Seedbank

By Helen DeLange

My partner, Gerard, found this lovely solid wood 10 drawer cabinet on a local buy, swap sell site. It has solid wood drawers and solid wood bottom and divider. It will be repurposed to house my seed collection and should be rodent-proof.



GOG Seed Bank

Our stock of members saved seeds is getting quite low, due to the fact that we have not been able to get together for our usual meetings due to Coronavirus restrictions.

Please keep saving your seed and if you would like to donate seed to our seed bank, it would be appreciated. Pickup / collection of seeds could be arranged or alternatively keep your spare seeds until we meet again in person. Adding fresh seed to the collection is a great way to ensure that plants suited to local conditions continue to flourish.

Contact Helen, or
email us:

gog.geelong@gmail.com



AGM & Quiz Results

Harlequin bugs (*Dindymus versicolour*) are native to Australia. True/False?

A: True.



GEELONG ORGANIC GARDENERS TRIVIA SCORE BOARD

Team	Rank	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Total
Popular Poppies	3	8	4	7	7	26
Golden Nuggets	1	8	9	6	9	32
Juicy Lemons	2	7	8	5	8	28

Committee 2021

Chair - Brendan Bolton

Vice Chair - Vacant

Secretary - Emily Swanson

Treasurer - Rosie Bright

Membership Secretary - Prema Saraswati *

Newsletter Ed - Goshen Watts

Librarian - Trish MacKenzie

General Committee members:

- Mark Hoffman *
- Peter Field
- Helen DeLange
- Deb Watkins
- Chloe Gillingham *

Congrats to everyone, and thanks for stepping up to make strong committee for 20-2021.

* New or changed committee members

Bees in the Garden

By Helen DeLange

Now that spring is well and truly here, it is timely to start thinking of plantings for bees. European honeybees require food all year round, and it is a good idea to have plants flowering in your garden throughout the seasons that supply nectar and pollen.

Native bees, on the other hand, only hatch and are active when the weather warms up – around 18° – so they require nectar and pollen sources over the warmer months. Native bees such as the blue banded bee are particularly attracted to flowers of the following plants salvias, dianella, tomato, chilli, basil, buddleia, lavender and abelia.

Blue banded bees have an interesting “head banging” technique when foraging. This foraging behaviour makes them an ideal pollinator for solanum family members, like tomatoes.

Watch this video:

<https://youtu.be/KBHrNpgNPBo>

What to plant for bees?

Any of the plants listed above for blue banded bees. Herbs, such as borage, dill, parsley, thyme, basil – allow these to flower.

|

Allow some of your vegetables to go to seed – onion, mustard, kale, broccoli, etc.

When planning your garden try to incorporate more bee attracting plants: salvias, grevilleas, echium, flowering gum trees, etc. Take a walk around your neighbourhood on a sunny day and take note of the plants that the bees are visiting.

Provide a water source – shallow bird baths are great, with pebbles or rocks to prevent drowning.

Helen presented a good number of pics and info at the Oct Zoom meeting.



*White Borage?
Where can we get this one!*

Swarm Season

Swarming season is upon us. If you notice a swarm of bees hanging in a tree or bush, contact a beekeeper, rather than a pest exterminator. You can contact someone on the Geelong Beekeepers Club's swarm removal list: <https://geelongbeekeepersclub.org/bee-swarm-removal/>

Or, report the swarm to Swarm Patrol: http://www.swarmpatrol.com/swarm_reports/add

Storages Update.

- You've seen the graphs before...
- Storages at 82.5%, compared with 71% last year... Looking good for summer, no restrictions in sight. :-)
- LaNina is now confirmed, so get set for a possibly wet and humid spring/summer. Much less watering (yay); but tomatoes and zucchini (for example) mightn't like it so much.

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



Harlequin Bugs

By Craig Castree (reposted from Facebook)

This post by Craig Castree was made a day or two after our Quiz... so many of us missed out on the fact that it's actually a native insect. They say it's attracted to Mallow (so get rid of mallow); except in my experience, I've had them 'swarming' on all these following plants... and more... so certainly not just Mallows [Goshen].

Apples, Tomatoes, Pears etc

Raspberries

Blackberry Leaves

Pepino

Rhubarb

Marrow

Tansy

Dandelion Flowers

Echium Flowers

And even Parsley (see pic). I mean, really!

Harlequin Bug: Harlequin bugs are a native insect and are prevalent in South Eastern Australia, including south East Queensland also in Tasmania. Harlequin Bugs usually cluster in large numbers on fences, walls, wood heaps and tree trunks. Mating pairs face opposite directions, joined at the end of the abdomens; the larger female usually dictates the direction of movement. This often gives rise to some embarrassing questions posed by youngsters trying to understand why they do this!

They are also known as "Stink Bugs" they get this name from a foul smelling liquid they release when handled so make sure you wear gloves if you intend to handle them.

They are about 12mm long, and are red, black and orange. Their nymphs are wingless, and bright red with black heads and three patches down the middle of their abdomen. They are sucking insects and can spread disease from one plant to another. They feed on a variety of weeds and plants, often damaging fruits and vegetables. They are particularly drawn to the Mallow weed so make sure you eradicate it, so you are not attracting them.

Keeping the corners of your garden free of piles of old pots, bricks, stacks of timber etc, will definitely decrease their numbers, they constantly look for undisturbed areas to nest, so keep a look out for places that might tend to be a place for them to nest and perhaps re-stack the pile of bricks, this disruption will cause them to move on looking for another place. Eventually they will move on and nest elsewhere rather than in your garden.

Mating lasts up to three days. The adult female lays her eggs in undisturbed corner of gardens, or cracks in bark and fences. Nymphs hatch and pass through five stages before adulthood. Depending on the climate their life cycle can take several months. Harlequin bugs may swarm on tree stumps and fences during cold weather.

They can certainly build in number if left unchecked, and can certainly do a lot of damage in a short space of time. Damage is sometimes goes un seen until you pick fruit



and realise that they have been sucking the juice out of your fruit particularly tomatoes, you will see faint dots and slight discolouration on the skin.

They do have some natural predators like birds and then there is Assassin Bugs.

Assassin Bugs are attracted by other insects as they predate on them, refer to picture so you know what they look like.

Control: Make sure you wear gloves when you go to carry out the following procedures: You will need to knock groups of them off fences or shake them off plants into soapy water. The ratio should be about 2 tablespoons of dishwashing detergent into 3 litres of warm water. You can also use a spray using the same ratio as just mentioned and include 1 teaspoon of eucalyptus oil and spray on contact.

There are sprays that are systemic available, however I would not recommend that you use them and definitely not on edibles, being systemic the chemicals get into the sap and into your food. To say nothing of the fact that these sorts of sprays are particularly bad for the environment and the good bugs in your gardens.

For more information on edible gardening you can obtain a copy of my book "Edible Gardens a practical guide" or my NEW eBook of over a 100+ Plant profiles that will take your edible garden to the next level, (Please note the two books are very different one compliments the other) at <http://www.craigcastree.com.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/craigcastreeedible/posts/10158999579886942>

Seed Sowing Guide: October - Dec

By Gavin Gamble. The one, the only.

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 / Carts

Some Foodswaps (eg Eastern Hub - First Sat of the Month) are back up running, but some centres are still closed.

“Grow Free” carts however, seem to be multiplying. Individuals creating community in their immediate neighborhood by having a shared space or “Cart” where people can drop off / swap / pick up various produce, seeds, plants and more. Great initiative; just keep the Covid protections up when visiting.

This is only a small (incomplete) selection, based on what I could find quickly:

- 122 Mt Pleasant Rd, Belmont
- 139 Reynolds Rod, Belmont
 - 26 Pavo St, Belmont
 - 6 Armitage Court, Belmont
 - Bradley Place (Grovedale)
- Kagoola Crt (Book Nook & Food is Free Cart)
 - 58 Colorado Drive, Corio

Carts are always changing, and some come and go... so not sure if it's best to have them permanently in this newsletter. You'll probably know if there's one around the corner from you, as you'll see it, or it'll come up on Facebook. You probably shouldn't be driving across town to visit them anyway...

Armitage Court “Grow Free Cart”



FARMERS MARKETS

Note that some of these markets might not be operating.

The Farm Next Door Sat market

26 Forster St Norlane. 10am-1pm, Every Sat.

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,



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!

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, and also complete a membership form.

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.

GOG Committee

email us: gog.geelong@gmail.com

Chair	Brendan Bolton	0403872676
Treasurer	Rosie Bright	0431 589 179
Vice Chair	(Vacant)	
Secretary	Emily Swanson	0409 658 325
Membership Secretary	Prema Saraswati	0451 182 002
Library	Trish MacKenzie	0400 221 964
Newsletter Editor Contributions:	Goshen Watts goshenw@gmail.com	0411 968 155
General Members:	Mark Hoffman	0407 856 052
	Deb Watkins	0408 218 997
	Peter Field	0422 548 871
	Helen De Lange	0400 211 013
	Cloe Gillingham	0413 281 429

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.

Support our member's gardening related enterprises:

NON-HYBRID, ORGANICALLY GROWN, OPEN POLLINATED SEED

birdland

organic seed

WALLINGTON, VIC. Ph. 0433 389 901
 website and on line shop: www.birdlandseeds.com

Watts Permaculture

Goshen Watts
 0411968155
 5241 3383
wattspermaculture.com.au
goshenw@gmail.com

Earth Care | People Care | Fair Share

golden plains GARDENING

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EDIBLE LANDSCAPE

home about us plants & products

Contact us
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Financial members and GOG supporters can list their garden related business here, just get in touch.

