

Karana Downs Garden Club Inc

Newsletter



President: Cecelia Jackson | Secretary: Lesley Holt | Treasurer: Gayle Smith

March 2020

From the President...



Have you noticed all the crabs in your lawn and garden beds since the recent long drought period followed by the recent rain?

Crow's Foot or Crabgrass is one of the worst lawn weeds in the world.

Early and small infestations of Crabgrass can most easily be removed with a sharp knife which takes the weed out at the root, being careful not to spill any seeds on the lawn during the removal. (CJ: I use a two or three-pronged fork and find it very therapeutic to sit in a patch and dig).

Crabgrass is most easily controlled with the use of Pre-Emergent Crabgrass Herbicide. This must be applied to the lawn before the Crabgrass germinates for the new season. The herbicide is watered into the lawn so it can filtrate into the soil where the Crabgrass seeds exist.

Take note of the label of the Crabgrass herbicide you are considering buying – to be sure it is safe for use on your lawn type.

Crabgrass herbicide warning

Some Crabgrass killers can also very effectively kill certain lawn types.

<https://www.myhometurf.com.au/lawn-tips/crabgrass/>

Alternatively, you may prefer the organic method...

You don't really need chemicals for crabgrass control. While it's easy to kill crabgrass with herbicides, the best way to remove it and control it is by first pulling it, and then cultivating healthy new [grass](#).

Water the problem area with a sprinkler or garden hose, then wait about 30 minutes to allow the water to soak in.

Using a pitchfork or weeding tool, remove young crabgrass when it's big enough to rip out, roots and all. If you're working with a large patch, this could take a while.

Add organic compost to the area in question. Work the soil so that it is thoroughly incorporated.

Seed the area with grass seed, and then place a layer of weed-free straw over the top to maintain moisture and protect the seeds from being eaten by birds.

Water the area daily, making sure the soil is consistently moist until the seeds sprout.

When the grass is long enough to mow, start [irrigating the lawn](#) more deeply and less frequently. Crabgrass is a notoriously shallow-rooted weed; a regimen of frequent, shallow watering helps it thrive.

To maintain your new patch of grass, mow it high. This means [leaving grass at a height](#) of 2 1/2 to 3-inches tall. Doing so will allow the lawn grass to "protect its own turf," depriving crabgrass seeds of the light they need to germinate.

Throughout the season, pull any remaining crabgrass plants that sprout up. By next year, your yard should be free of it.

<https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-kill-crabgrass>

Cecelia Jackson - President 2018/2019/2020

Display Table Categories

The categories for the Display Table are listed on the back of the 2020 Schedule with a reminder that number 11 is Succulent and Cacti which was omitted at time of printing.

The Floral Art theme for this month is **Topiary**

Plant stall

Please bring along any plants or cuttings you are happy to part with, especially after the lovely rain we have had in recent weeks. Remember to bring a box or bag to take home your purchases.

March Morning Tea Roster

Savoury: Desley Dann, Andrea Williams, Sue Dwan, Anna Watts, Dawn Brown, Ruth McDougall.

Bronwen Cottman (vegan), Glenda Cooper, Shelagh Morgan (GF)

Sweet: Elizabeth Burns, Roni Mingay, Margaret Lynch, Rae Cosstello, Christine Allen, Yvonne Hawkins, Lorraine McIntosh.

Chris Fenwick, Veronica Turner (GF)

March Carpool – 10th March

Silkstone _Peak Crossing _ Harrisville

Organisers: Erin Falvey (0439810435) and Denise Smith (0432874178)

\$ 10.00 to be paid by March meeting

- ❖ Morning tea provided.
- ❖ Lunch byo or purchase at the camel farm.
- ❖ BYO cup, small esky for any products you purchase.
- ❖ Meet up time – 8:30am at 70 Glebe Road, Silkstone.
- ❖ Carpool from here. Parking available on Glebe Road.

See February's Newsletter for a more detailed outline of the day's events or speak to Erin at the March meeting.

Melbourne Cup **Already you say!**



From your Events Coordinator (in training 😊)

A venue for the 2020 Melbourne Cup Luncheon is being sought.

What do we need?

- ✓ A venue – a willingness to open your home to 40-50 house-trained and respectful members and friends.
- ✓ A television!
- ✓ Sweeps coordinator x 2 It's easy. Just Google it.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/how-to-organise-a-melbourne-cup-office-sweep-20181105-p50e0k.html>

Training will be provided.

Please speak with Sue Dwan if you can help. When we fail to plan, we plan to fail as the saying goes. Thank you, Sue, for being on the ball!

April Bus Trip – Tuesday 14th April Picnic Point/Pioneer Village/Abbey Lane/True Blue Garden Centre



Organisers: Lauren Christian (041273087) and Sandra Cooper (0419195267)

\$ 30.00 to be paid by March meeting

Departure Time: 7:45am

Meet at 34a Workshops St Brassall (our meeting venue). Cars can be left in the carpark.

❖ Picnic Point

Morning tea – tea and coffee supplied. BYO yummys or visit the lovely café with barista coffee and delicious treats. There will be time to wander around the beautiful landscape and take in the magnificent views.

❖ Pioneer Village

Step back in time. Enjoy the surrounds of this beautifully kept village run by dedicated volunteers, typifying the lifestyle of a bygone era. You can choose to stay here and enjoy lunch in the Village (byo or purchase at the new Cafe) OR hop on the bus for a 5-minute ride to the Cafe at Abbey Lane.

❖ Abbey Lane

Enjoy a leisurely lunch from the Cafe or BYO. Will have time to visit the quaint little shops and intricate cottage garden.

❖ True Blue Garden Centre.

You will find a good variety of interesting plants grown in natural outdoor conditions. Browse through the lovely gift shop. You'll find it is full of surprises!

❖ Arrive back at 34a Workshops St Brassall – approximately 4:30pm