

August Meeting of the Pegasus U3A Garden Group

The Garden Group met at the MPCC on 22nd August at 1 pm for a talk by Daphne O'Connell about flax weaving.



Daphne is now an independent weaver but has Ngai Tahu iwi in her heritage. She finds flax weaving a very soothing experience. Daphne has helped run workshops to teach expectant Māori and Polynesian mothers to make bassinets as part of the Wahakuru project. This project aims to reduce SUDI (formerly known as 'cot death') as Māori accounted for over 60% of the SUDI rates in New Zealand. Laying their baby in their Wahakuru has reduced SUDI mortality considerably. Daphne then explained how she gathers the flax and the correct way to cut the flaxes and how to leave the plant in such a way that it will continue to flourish. She has made a wide variety of woven items and then showed the group how she weaves a fish and a rose.





The Garden Group has planned further outings now that Spring is approaching so if you are not a member, please contact Bron Goldschmidt on 027 2040 5833 if you wish to join us. Gardeners, please put these dates in your diary as follows:

Monday 26th September 1 pm: Visit to Styx Mill garden (to be confirmed) or alternative is a visit to the Botanic Gardens to view the Daffodils and Spring displays.

Monday 24th October 1 pm: Visit to Wakatu Street, Moncks Bay to view gardens led by Jan Leitch followed by Tea and Cuttings at Bron Goldschmidt's home.

November date TBA: Visit to a garden on Fisher Avenue.

Monday 28th November 10.30 am: Visit to Iris Gardens in Springston followed by our Christmas lunch at Cedar Park Gardens, 101b Lowes Road, Rolleston. Cost \$25 pp. Carpooling is suggested and to meet at MPCC. Details later.

Monday 23rd January: Clarkville garden to visit per Bron G organising.

Tuesday, 14th February: **BEGONIAS**. 10.00 am meet at 4 Blankney Street, Hornby to view the Begonias grown by Audi Smith at his home. Tea/Coffee supplied and morning tea by committee. Lunch at a venue to be decided followed potentially by a visit to Russell Jeffares, at 2 pm to view his Begonias at 32a Mathers Road, Hoon Hay.

(Report provided by Gaynor Button)