

# U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

What a wonderful year our group has had despite the covid restrictions at times. The evolution of the group to being committee-led seems to have worked and allows everyone to have an input into what they like to do, learn, and see as a group. Thank you all for your efforts and trying new things. How we move forward from here is up to every one of you. The 2023 committee wants direction for the coming year. The committee and I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Lynne Hazlett

### *End of Year Celebration*

Our end of year meeting on Monday 28 November was blessed with lovely weather.



We first visited Julie May's new property in Springston. Many of you will have visited Julie's former garden – The Iris Garden in Motukarara and possibly bought some of her gorgeous bearded irises. Her new property is just as interesting, although on a smaller scale. The garden was originally covered in fine shingle and planted with grasses and flax, etc. Julie has removed all the original plantings and the garden beds have been built up, retaining the shingle for

the paths. The garden is full of roses, perennials, clematis (some very large flowers, and some a gorgeous deep purple), and of course bearded irises. Julie is preparing for an Iris Convention next year and decided that some of her iris plants were not in the right colour scheme so dug them up and sold them to several members – an unexpected bonus.



From Springston we drove to Rolleston to Cedar Park Gardens where we wandered around Anne and Ron Finch's beautifully laid out garden.



Anne served a delicious finger food lunch with tea and coffee.



True to form a number of Anne's plants made the journey back to Christchurch! Pat P had some lovely large specimens.

### *Update*

Text as received from Anna-Lisa

Tatjana is a little slower every day, with her pain and comfort both well managed. She can no longer get into the garden on her own but currently can continue to impress her friends and loved ones with garden tours; everyone appreciates the spectacular show this year, after 15 years of loving labour in this garden. We are decorating the house for Christmas this week and look forward to celebrating our family traditions all together.

### *Programme update*

**Please note your diaries - 14 February is an extra visit and is not on our usual day.**

Monday 23rd January	The Blue House, Amberley – garden visit – 2pm (confirmation of numbers by 19 <sup>th</sup> )
Tuesday 14th February	BEGONIAS. 10.00am 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 visit to Russell Jeffares, at 2pm to view his Begonias at 32a Mathers Road
Monday February 27	Gilroy Nurseries, Clarkville - rose garden and rose growers
Monday March 27	West Melton garden visit

### *U3A Website*

Our newsletters will be available on the website <https://u3apegasus.org.nz/garden-group/>