

# U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

Greetings everyone. What glorious weather we have over the last few days, a real Indian summer. Growth has been wonderful for veges, flowers and weeds alike.

### *February garden visit from Gaynor*

We enjoyed our visit to Gilroy Rose Nurseries, at Clarkville near Kaiapoi on 27 February. The day was pleasant, and we had a fantastic tour of their rose nursery given by David Bryce, the owner of Gilroy Roses, who explained how he became involved in growing roses from growing the root stock to the end result. They grow roses mainly for Oderings and some other large nurseries in NZ. One of the main roses they grow is 'Iceberg' followed by 'My Mum' which are their biggest sellers. Even down here in Canterbury, they had been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle due to the closure of Oderings in Napier which had been heavily impacted which meant cancellation of a large order they were about to send to them. However, despite this David was very positive, and he gave a wonderful description to us of the process of growing a rose from root stock to readiness for sale. His wife, Claire joined us later in the tour. Their house had been built for the original owners and along with the large red barn which was originally at the Great Exhibition in Hagley Park in 1916, had been on the property for many years.



A lovely day in sunshine and roses



Jan patting the faithful dog beside Iceberg and My Mum Rose



Root stock which takes three years to mature

The red barn originally from the Great Exhibition held in Hagley Park in November 1906



Two years' Growth



Ready for sale

### ***Programme update***

27 March – 1.30pm - Tea & Cuttings at Dolina Barker's home – 32 The Brae.

Dolina's house is at the top of The Brae near St Andrews Hill Road.

Parking: 2-3 cars in front of house and 2 on road; 2 places in front of 34 and two in front of 30 or park on St Andrews Road and walk down

24 April – 1pm - a visit to David Bryce's property at 164 Moncks Spur, Redcliffs. David (who trades under the name Eco Solutions) is well known in the area for his involvement with the Drayton Reserve and extensive vegetable garden which has been developed using permaculture principles and managed organically for over 40 years. His garden comprises of over 100 species of edible fruits, nuts, berries, vegetables, and herbs with areas of flowers.

### ***U3A Website***

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

Regards

Lyn

on behalf of the Steering Committee