

U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

JULY NEWSLETTER

Greetings everyone. Another wet month which makes it difficult to get out in the garden. I spent four days in Sydney at the end of June – the weather was sunny with little wind – I felt quite envious especially as I came home to more rain and gloom. Oh well, only seven weeks until the first day of Spring – what a great thought.

JUNE MEETING

On 26 June about 14 of us visited Aromaunga Baxters Flowers, on Bridle Path Road in Heathcote Valley - a rather murky day with intermittent rain.



We were hosted by John Baxter who, together with his brother Michael, runs the business. No doubt many of us have passed the modest entrance or have bought the quality flowers from their shop not far from the gate. We were surprised, I think, to realise how many glasshouses and tunnel

houses are accommodated on the site.

John explained how his elderly father bought the property at auction almost on a whim because he liked the fernery beside the house. The house dates from the early 1900s and there is a large elm tree in front aged about 100yrs. The garden was originally designed by Alfred Buxton, a well-known Christchurch landscaper and nurseryman.

The business employs around 20 staff, tending a variety of flowers such as alstroemeria, hellebores, carnations, lilies, chrysanthemums and freesias. We were able to



enter some of the houses to see the beds in their 6-weekly-planted growing stages. A very labour intensive business with the flowers being sold at the markets and through their shop, the latter making up almost 50% of their profit.

Following our tour we went to the Valley Inn for hot drinks and a welcome platter of savouries.



JULY MEETING

24 July 1.30pm Tips & Cuttings at Adrienne Pavalka's house
I have attached a map to Adrienne's for you to follow. We will meet in the MPCC carpark at 1pm as usual for those who wish to car pool before travelling over to Lyttelton.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

28 August Moon River Flowers speaker at MPCC 1pm (Note earlier time)
25 Sept T&C – Pat Pilkington
23 Oct Visit to Willow Springs, 25 Quuids Road, Marshlands
NB this is Labour Day so may need to move our meeting day to following Monday 30 October
27 Nov Christmas Lunch – Chateau on the Park

Barnett Park Request

Jan Leith has passed on a request from the Barnett Park plant restoration group. They need a large quantity of vegetable pots or small trainer pots to grow on the plants they have raised from seed collected in the Park. The photo shows the type they would like. Jan is happy to collect – if you have any on hand please bring them to Adrienne's house or bring them along to MPCC for August meeting. Please ask around your gardening friends as well.



U3A WEBSITE

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

Regards
Lyn
on behalf of the Steering Committee