

# U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

## JUNE NEWSLETTER

Greetings everyone.

Well, winter is finally upon us – NIWA says 1 June but the astronomers say 20 June which is the Winter Solstice. Whatever they say, I am happy that my yellow abutilon, daphne bush and sasanqua camellias are all covered in flowers.

### ***MAY meeting***

We had a really good Tips and Cuttings afternoon at Gaynor's village lounge. We had a guest speaker – Carolyn Dixon. Carolyn has had an extensive background in horticulture – from Head Gardener in London, working in a garden centre in Christchurch, research, and now leading a propagation group with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

Carolyn gave us many tips and tasks for June – planting up Spring bulbs; planting violas and



pansies for Winter colour; getting rid of dead and diseased foliage from our perennials; pulling out the old annuals; cutting back foliage on the hellebores; MULCH, pruning – it's not too early to start on our hydrangeas and roses; planting new trees and shrubs before the frosts start and the ground is too cold; getting out our frost clothes if we haven't done so already.

There is so much to do at this time of year but I find a slow and steady approach to each garden bed achieves more than a scatter gun approach. Carolyn's list did not touch on lawns and vegetable gardens which are also in need of attention.

If you are interested in using containers for your bulbs and polys and primulas Carolyn recommended looking at suggestions from Arthur Parkinson – nominated as one of the UK's most influential young gardeners. Arthur is a gardener, florist and author. "The Flower Yard – Growing Flamboyant Flowers in Containers" is one of his books (Christchurch Libraries has it in their catalogue). You can also see a number of his "how to" videos on YouTube – Google Arthur and there they are. He is quite an engaging and enthusiastic young man.



We enjoyed a wander around Silverstream Village afterwards and were able to view several of the residents' gardens – so interesting to see the differences in size and layout of the gardens from the street frontage and the private back areas.



One particular garden has just been completely redone – a large griselinia hedge removed and the garden extensively replanted in shrubs and small trees. Reminiscent of Dolina’s garden clean up the owner of this garden found a large raised garden bed hiding beneath a load of hedging and greenery! A huge job to undertake but

looking at the variety of rhodos, peonies, abutilons, and other flowering shrubs it will be a picture in a year or two when they are all established.

### ***JUNE meeting***

On 26 June at 1.30pm we will be visiting Aromaunga Baxters Flowers, 116 Bridle Path Road in Heathcote Valley. They will give us a tour of their extensive premises and growing sheds. Sensible shoes will be a must in case it is wet under foot.

We can either meet outside Aromaunga at 1.30pm or for those who wish to car pool please be at MPCC by 1.10pm.

For those who wish to we will have a coffee afterwards – venue to be decided and advised prior to the meeting date.

### ***Programme update***

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|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24 July   | T&C – Adrienne to host                                                                                                                              |
| 28 August | Possible talk by Moon River Flowers                                                                                                                 |
| 25 Sept   | T&C – Pat Pilkington                                                                                                                                |
| 23 Oct    | Visit to Willow Springs, 25 Quaid's Road, Marshlands<br>NB this is Labour Day so may need to move our meeting day to following<br>Monday 30 October |
| 27 Nov    | Christmas Lunch – Chateau on the Park                                                                                                               |

### ***U3A Website***

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

Regards

Lyn

on behalf of the Steering Committee