

# U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Greetings everyone.

### ***AUGUST meeting***

On 28 August we welcomed Claire Maetzig from Moon River Flowers who talked to us about her business created in the Red Zone growing and selling cut flowers.

Back in 2012 Claire was a mother with a two year old toddler and no gardening experience. She started with the existing raised beds where she lived to grow vegetables, and from there branched into growing flowers for the house. She then moved on to Ikebana, foraging for the interesting branches and flowers to be found in the Red Zone. Claire's talent



with floral arranging then branched into

bouquets and arrangements for friends. 2020/21 saw her commit to a new project – leasing land and growing cut flowers for sale. A suitable site in Trent Street, Avonside (Red Zone) was found and half an acre was leased from the

City Council. Long rows of compost were laid out, planted and covered. Moon River Flower Farm is now a thriving business. Claire supplies to wholesalers, makes up wedding bouquets and holds ticketed pick-your-own evenings for the public.



We were very impressed with Claire's enthusiasm and drive especially with two children and a labour-intensive business.

After the meeting we went to Café Metro in Humphreys Drive for coffee and a catchup.

Here is a link to her website

<https://www.moonriverflowerfarm.com/>

### ***SEPTEMBER Meeting***

Our meeting this month will be a Tips & Cuttings at Pat Pilkington's home – 45 Winchester Street, Merivale. 1.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please bring along your cuttings/perennial divisions. A note from Pat – she is co-ordinating a charity garden stall in November and will be very happy to keep any extras that are brought along and not taken up by members. If you have any surplus plants in the garden that need moving Pat would like to have them for the garden stall.

**Of interest: *Botanical Expo, Lincoln Event Centre***

<https://www.botanicalexpo.nz/>

September 16 1-5pm

September 17 10am – 4pm

If you have not visited this event before I can highly recommend it. They have a variety of unusual plants for sale – perennial, rockery, succulents. Plus the Daffodil Show, plus workshops. I have included above the website link for you to explore.

### ***Programme update***

- 23 Oct Visit to Willow Springs, 25 Quaid's 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

### ***U3A Website***

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

Regards

Lyn

on behalf of the Steering Committee