

U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Greetings everyone.

My, we have had every kind of weather thrown at us in the last month: heavy rain, dense fog and really severe frosts. Hard to keep up with it. Hopefully the bugs will well and truly be dead by now! The hellebores are looking lovely and the daphne is continuing to flower unabated – lovely to be weeding and enjoy a whiff of its perfume. It's Saturday afternoon and the sun has finally appeared after the heavy fog – and it must be 3pm because the pair of magpies who live further over in Centennial Park (by Pioneer Stadium) have arrived for their short daily review of the properties and to keep the resident starling flock in their place. I can almost set my watch by them.

AUGUST Meeting

Our meeting this month – Monday 26th at 1pm - will be a visit to Zealandia Wholesale Plant Nursery, 301 Radcliffe Road. (Down a long driveway) They have big glasshouses so we will be undercover should it rain.

Those wanting to car pool need to be at the Mt Pleasant Community Centre by 12.30 for the 25 minute ride.

We will follow the visit with a coffee stop on the way home at Black and White Cartel, 436 Prestons Road (cnr Marshlands Road). They close at 4pm so we should have plenty of time.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

JULY Meetings



The brave members sheltering under brollies with Murray.



Members watching Murray demonstrate

Murray's Fruit Tree Pruning Session

On Monday 22nd a small group of members from the Pegasus U3A Garden Group, braved the wet wintry day to meet at Murrays place in Sumner for a fruit tree pruning session.

Murray is on a 500sqm section that has 60 fruit trees of many varieties, including the Monty Surprise apple which contains a combination of phytonutrients that has additional health benefits. Look it up and you will be surprised at the research showing the cancer preventing benefits.

Murray's extensive knowledge made pruning understandable.

Below are some bullet points that Murray shared that we found very useful.

- Use sharp secateurs and cut on an angle, preferably downward slope.
- Complete main Prune at the end of June early July, usually before budding.
- Prune down to an outward facing bud for middle branches, upward facing for higher or lower branches.
- Prune out all dead branches and old fruit.
- Prune inward facing and crossed branches.
Prune inward facing branches to allow light and air to get in.

- Prune Apples down to a fruiting spur.
- Do a general prune in Summer after fruit has been picked.
- Use a pruning paste when cutting bigger branches.
- Use Lime sulphur as a hygiene clean in June but not on apricots
- Conquer Oil - Best applied in July.
- When the green tips show – apply copper spray for leaf curl

Murray uses a Codling Moth Disrupter to control the Codling Moth bug.

Murray said he would communicate with Gaynor to see if our members wish to get some Codling Moth Disrupters from him when he purchases them from a Orchardist. They are approximately \$1 each.

Use a grafting tape to help repair branches and when grafting new shoots.

Murray also shared two links the following day, which he mentioned during our visit.

“Hi Gaynor I hope you've thawed out !!!
Here's the Codling Moth Rings ordering info..

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/K1dAsexKKd18JAXK/?mibextid=Nif5oz>

And here's the article from a couple of years ago..

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/homed/garden/118258983/suburban-orchard-with-yearround-harvest>

Thanks to Priscilla and Leon for the report.

On the 29th we had our mid-winter lunch at Lynne Haslett's home. A great variety of finger food was brought along by members – so yummy. A big thank you to Lynne for her hosting. As requested we had brought along a photo of ourselves aged up to 10 years for a fun game – a degree of difficulty trying to decide who was whom! However we had a clear winner in Ali. We had a small selection of flowers to enjoy and judge -wonderful for this time of year. A really lovely afternoon.

Programme update

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| September 23 | Bonsai Magic – Dirk will introduce and share the joy of bonsai growing (to be held at the Clubhouse at Streamside Court which is off St John Street, Woolston) |
| October 28 | T&C Marg McCarthy 18 Hilltop Lane |
| November 25 | Christmas Lunch – Cedar Park Gardens and also a visit to two other Rolleston gardens beforehand. We will be asking for numbers in September. |

In December our garden group does not usually hold a meeting, however there is the opportunity to join with Somerfield Garden Club and go to lunch on 9 December at the historic house and garden – Ambrosia House. More details closer to the time.