

# U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

## JULY NEWSLETTER

Greetings everyone.

I know the farmers are breathing a sigh of relief but a little relief from continual rain and fog and drizzle would be nice. Two green bin collection days with no rubbish to put out is rather frustrating. And, Yes, I know the gardens needed the rain, so I shall go away and grumble in silence. 😊😊😊 However sitting here at the computer I spy a new resident to my street – a fantail, not to mention a very industrious female blackbird flicking half my garden soil onto the paving.

### ***JULY Meetings***

Yes that is a plural not a typo.

There are five Mondays in July and whilst we did flag that we would have a mid-winter lunch on the 22<sup>nd</sup> we now have the opportunity to go back to our original idea of a demonstration on pruning fruit trees. We will therefore be meeting at 1pm at 55 Arnold Street, Sumner, where Murray will be using his own trees to apply pruning principles. Do bring warm clothes and wellies or galoshes to keep your feet dry.

We will move the mid-winter lunch to the 29<sup>th</sup> at Lynne Haslett's home, 4 Ophir Lane at 1pm for lunch at 1.30pm. Please bring a plate of finger food to share, a photo of yourselves aged up to 10 years for a fun game, and also a flower from your garden for judging or to place on the table as decoration. Please don't show anyone the photo when you arrive as we will be having a guessing game of who is whom. Please confirm to Lynne Haslett if you are attending.

### ***JUNE Meeting***

As seems the way of things at the moment we had to cancel our visit to Penelope Jameson's art studio due to ill health. We will try and reschedule Penny at a later stage.

Instead Lynne H managed to arrange a visit, at very short notice, to Trees for Canterbury (TfC) in Ferrymead. We were escorted by Steve Bush, who manages the projects and day-to-day management of TfC. From a small beginning in 1990 the nursery has grown into a successful enterprise with three goals –

to employ, to educate and to regenerate the native plants in our community areas. With Steve's empathy and enthusiasm it is not surprising that the nursery is flourishing. The tour included the cuttings tunnel house where we were intermittently lightly sprayed (along with the plants) and the shade houses where the plants were hardened off. Seeds are collected from as far afield as Arthurs Pass and Cheviot as well as Riccarton Bush (for the kauri seeds) and pockets of original forest still existing on farms around Canterbury. Planting projects range as far north as Port Robinson (near Cheviot) and at various schools and kindergartens and community gardens around Christchurch – including the Estuary plantings.





Diverse groups such as corporates, banks and schools turn up for assisting in the potting sheds or participating in planting projects. They have a wonderful range of plants for sale, including of all things matagouri, that wonderful plant that ripped shreds of skin and clothing off those of us who used to or still do go tramping.

### ***Programme update (tentative)***

July 22	Fruit tree pruning
July 29	Mid-winter lunch
August 26	Zealandia Nursery visit
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 – TBC but probably Cedar Park Gardens and also a visit to two other Rolleston gardens beforehand

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.

Ideas for 2025 - a visit to Adrienne Pavelka's new home in Amberley, Rhodo Direct in West Melton, Hintons Garden/Winery in Harewood, Casa Rossa Garden in West Melton, a photographer giving an interactive session on phone photography – fun and simple

**Do you have any ideas for the garden group?? The committee would love to hear from you.**

### ***U3A Website***

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