

U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Greetings to everyone

Autumn is now in full swing. I did, in the end, spend an hour or so one Saturday in late March raking two wool sacks full of leaves in a park in Fairview Street and a couple of berms in Fisher Avenue, followed by a session with the mower chewing them up. They are still sitting in the wool sacks though, as I left for Sydney on the 31st to do a bit of nursing care for my brother who lives there. Sydney is warm and with lots of sub-tropical shrubs and trees it is a little difficult to capture that autumn flavour. I hope to be back during Easter so cleaning up the garden will be a priority.

Looking at the lengthy list of possible “to do’s” in the Canterbury Horticultural Society’s newsletter there is a variety of tasks for everyone and every garden: planting new strawberry plants, pruning old canes from raspberries, fertilising and spraying citrus trees, sowing lawn seeds, spraying lawns, sowing brassicas and onions as well as broad beans for next year, and of course planting bulbs for Spring. I see that NZ Bulbs and Bulbs Direct have their marketing plans well underway and emails are being received regularly!

APRIL Meeting

Our 28 April meeting will be a *tips and cuttings* at Ali Dewsbury’s home - 178 Cannon Hill Crescent, Mt Pleasant at 1pm. It will be lovely to be able to catch up with each other over a cuppa. If you have excess bulbs, corms, plants, etc do bring them along to share.



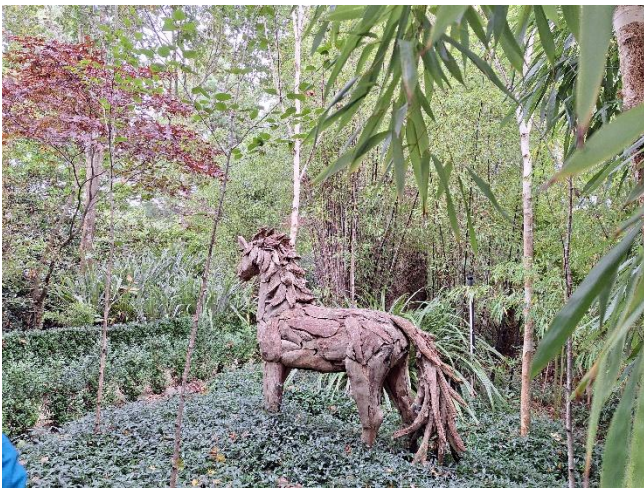
Lynne is going to talk about starting a worm farm and the benefits of having a farm in your garden. Ali has just bought the pictured model from Mitre 10. Lynne is supplying the tiger worms from her farms. Priscilla also has a worm farm so we will have plenty of comments/advice to think about.

MARCH Meeting

Our meeting on 24 March was a trip to Casa Rossa Gardens, West Melton. 25 years ago the property was



a 5000 sqm shingle quarry and now has a glorious garden, and boutique accommodation and wedding venue. Macrocarpa and buxus hedges and windmill palms line each side of the drive, with two upright hornbeams signalling its end in front of the house – a terracotta-coloured, Chinese foo dog-guarded, Mediterranean-styled affair covered in Boston ivy. The autumn leaf colours were lovely. Mel and Chris guided us around the garden



An Informal Add On if you are interested

Lynne Haslett noticed a write up in the Press on Terrace Station in Hororata. www.terracestation.org.nz

On Sunday 27 April they are having an Open Day to the gardens and 20 outbuildings (not the homestead). The homestead belonged to Sir John Hall, NZ's 12th Prime Minister and is still in the family but owned by a Trust.

The heritage garden has 150 year old trees showing splendid autumn colours. Mass plantings are a feature - red dahlias, woodland cyclamen, Japanese anemone, sternbergia lutea, crocosmia and Sally Holmes roses.

A some of the garden group are going and if anyone wishes to go in the group let Lynne know so car pooling can be arranged lynnehaslett@gmail.com

Or make your own way there. Take your lunch to have on the lawn. There is a small plant stall and \$10 admission. Cash only. Hours 11am to 3pm Use the 151 Milnes Road entrance.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

Below is the **draft** programme for 2025

May 26 th	Visit to a commercial grower – TBC
June 23 rd	1pm Tips & Cuttings – TBC
July 28 th	1pm Carolyn Collins – interactive photography demo
August 25 th	1pm Ann Gain – hanging basket demonstration
September 22 nd	Jo McGirr – taking cuttings and seed raising demo
October 27 th	10.30am Visit to Stoneycrop garden and Rhodo Direct garden, West Melton
November 24 th	12.30pm End of year lunch at “Ambrosia”, Strathlachlan Gardens, Doyleston