

U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Greetings to everyone

Well, four lovely days in a row!! Maybe Spring really is on the horizon. The hellebores, daphne, camellias and now the daffodils in my garden certainly lift the spirit. The veg garden got a thorough dig yesterday – very pleasing to see some nice fat worms being uncovered, and then hurriedly re-covered again in case the resident large whanau of starlings uncover them and have a feast.



The roses are looking forlorn and in need of a good prune. I recently attended a talk by a tree pruner who recommended sharpening your secateurs and loppers with these handy little files which can be purchased at PGG Wrightsons, as well as cleaning the implements with meths to keep them free of disease.

AUGUST Meeting

Our August meeting is a hanging basket demonstration by Anne Gane, florist – very timely with annuals starting to arrive into the garden centres. The demo is being held in the Clubrooms of Streamside Court, St John Street, Woolston. (Some of you may have already attended other Garden Group meetings there). Anne will be starting the demonstration at 1.30pm so if you could please arrive a bit earlier that would be great.

JULY Meeting

In July the Garden Group visited Fern Factor, a dedicated fern producing nursery in Templeton. A fascinating tour of the premises where we saw the development of the ferns from start to finish. Start is the cleaning of the underside of a frond with spores. They are then packeted up and refrigerated. They are sprayed onto trays which are sealed and placed in a special room with controlled water and LED lighting. The tiny plants are then tweezered out and replanted into very small plug pots for growing on. Fern Factor has an extensive network of greenhouses in which various fern varieties are harden off. Each greenhouse has a complex system of machines to regulate humidity, fogging and misting. The nursery supplies plants to the City Council, garden centres and contractors around the country. Paul and Graeme were



very knowledgeable and very welcoming. We were somewhat in awe of what Paul has achieved on the 3 acre property which he purchased with help from his parents in 1998. Shelter belts, shade and tunnel houses, a laboratory, and time saving devices such as metal tracks to push around the large trays containing ferns. A really interesting afternoon, which we finished by going to the Two Fat Possum in West Melton for refreshments.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

Below is the programme for 2025

September 22 nd	1pm Jo McGirr – taking cuttings and seed raising demonstration
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