

U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Greetings to everyone

What fantastic weather we had this last weekend – warm and sunny – perfect for walking or gardening. As opposed to today when much needed rain is falling. The leaves are dropping fast now and since I like to make leaf mulch I shall be putting my rake and bags in the back of the car so I can rake up other people's berms and the odd small park when I drive by. Two years ago I was mildly challenged by a homeowner who also had his eye on the Council's little reserve in Milton Street – I mildly commented that there were plenty of leaves to go around especially as only half of them had fallen so far – LOL.

MARCH Meeting

Our meeting on 24 March will be a trip to Casa Rossa Gardens, West Melton. It is located at 203 Jowers Road, off SH73 West Coast Road. 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. With autumn coming in the leaf colours will be lovely.

The cost is \$15 a head. You can either pay via internet banking or bring the correct money. For those who wish to car pool, we will meet as usual at MPCC at 9.30am to leave at 9.45am. We are scheduled to start our tour at 10.30am so those who are self-drive should arrive just before that time.

FEBRUARY Meeting

February the Group visited Ribblesdale Gardens, just outside of Oxford. A four acre garden featuring a wide variety of landscape settings: Hosta haven, Native garden, Stumpery, Railway woodland track, Parkland garden, Woodland memories walk, Fragrant garden, Moonlight garden, Secret room, and an azalea and rhododendron garden - plus there is a boutique nursery where some of our members found a few treasures to take home. Little nurseries like these always have unusual plants that you cannot find at Odeurings etc but only online. We had lovely weather to enjoy the garden.





We finished the day out with lunch in Oxford at one of the many cafes there are to choose from, and a visit to the excellent book store.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

Below is the **draft** programme for 2025

April 28 th	1pm Tips & Cuttings – Ali Dewsbury – plus a session on starting a worm farm
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