

U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Greetings to everyone

Spring weather continues – high winds, hail, lashing rain, brilliant sunshine!! Sometimes all in one day. However our compensation is the blossom trees – michelias, camellias, cherry, magnolias to name but a few. It is hard to keep ones eye on the road when driving, there are so many magnificent trees around.

SEPTEMBER Meeting

Our September meeting is once again at Streamside Court, St John Street, Woolston at 1pm. We will have a demonstration by Jo McGirr on seed raising and how to take cuttings.

Jo is a professional gardener with a DipHort(dist) from Lincoln University and her clients cover residential and lifestyle properties. Jo has a special interest in propagating plants from seed and each year she runs a successful plant sale at Labour Weekend, growing a lot of plants for sale from seed, the profit from which is used to maintain the grounds of her Parish.

Jo's presentation will be about the successful growing of plants from seed including the use of propagators, heatpads and seedraising/potting mixes. She will go over pest and disease control and fertiliser.

There will be an opportunity for all to have a go at planting seeds and pricking out plants to take home. (1 punnet of seeds and 1 punnet of seedlings for each person) (at no charge).

AUGUST Meeting



Our August meeting was held at the club rooms of Silverstream Court. We were given an excellent demonstration of how to put together a hanging basket. It was interesting to see Ann make use of thin branches from a silver birch tree to weave basket-fashion around the plastic basket and then line it with coir pulling the fibres through the gaps. The secret is to overfill the basket with plants so that when they grow there are no empty spaces. (see Jane's notes at the back of this newsletter)

The second demonstration was how to make a tussie mussie. A tussie mussie (or nosegay) is a small, handheld bouquet of fragrant flowers and herbs, historically used to combat unpleasant odours and, later, as a fashion accessory and a means of coded communication through the Victorian language



of flowers. The term combines the old English "tussie" (cluster or knot of flowers) with "mussie" (referring to the damp moss wrapped around the stems to keep the flowers fresh). The small bouquets often feature a special flower at the centre, surrounded by other blooms and foliage. Our demonstrator showed how easy it is to make one not only from flowers but also from just foliage such as you would find in your garden.



PROGRAMME UPDATE

Below is the programme for 2025

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

GARDEN NOTICES

The Ōhoka Garden Tour and Fete

Date: 23 November • 10:00

Location: 261 Jacksons Road, Ohoka, Canterbury 7692

https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/the-ohoka-garden-tour-and-fete-tickets-1647540420749?aff=eivtefrnd&utm_share_source=listing_android

Saturday 27th September 1.00pm-5.00pm & Sunday 28th September 10.00am -4.00pm
Botanical Expo at the Lincoln Event Centre

Spring is Blooming...

BOTANICAL EXPO

LINCOLN EVENT CENTRE | 15 MEIJER DRIVE | \$5 ENTRY

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 1PM - 5PM

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 10AM - 4PM

Daffodils, Spring Bulbs, Alpines, Floral Art, Bonsai, Demonstrations

NZAGS
New Zealand Alpine
Garden Society

 *Canterbury Horticultural Society*

  WWW.BOTANICALEXPO.NZ

ROSES AT CUST

As some will already know Querky Style Nursery at Cust closed down in March this year.

However the Rose side of the business is still running but transferred to 224 Main Race Road, West Eyreton.

www.rosesatcust.co.nz Open Thursday – Sunday

MAKING A HANGING BASKET – WITH ANN GAIN

Get your wire basket and line it with silver birch twigs. (I've been trying to think of a use for these wretched things which fall regularly from the three silver birch trees we have in our garden!)

Then line the basket using coir or the wool matting that sometimes comes as an insulation layer in packaging.

The soil mix: A combination of No 8 compost and No 8 potting mix, mixed in a large bowl along with pre-soaked water crystals. Mix all this together and add a small amount of blood and bone fertiliser (slow release).

Plants you can use – lobelia (cascading), violas, alyssum, ageratum, dianthus, primula.....



Planting: Divide the hanger into quarters. Work from the outside in. As you take the plants out of their punnets, take half of the root ball off. Make sure you plant them close together to avoid weeds getting in and to stop drying out too much. Water using a sprinkler hose or preferably a drip hose that waters regularly.

Jane