



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
with Tim Goom

# 2019. It's a wrap!

December- a huge month for us all on many levels- including in the garden! I love December, temperatures increase, another busy year of work winds up, holidays, and plenty of entertaining with family and friends. With all this activity, it is important to put a few measures in place to keep your outdoor space looking it's best in to 2020 and beyond.

### Lush Lawns

Keeping your lawn green and inviting over summer is a real challenge. Soaring temperatures, increased foot traffic and the odd game of backyard cricket pose real challenges. Fertiliser is your friend. Digging out or spraying unsightly and potentially prickly weeds is a must, as is resisting the urge to aggressively mow the lawn- lawn growth will slow in the heat of summer so mow less often and to a longer length. Watering either side of the hottest part of the day will be more effective- and a deep watering every few days will have greater benefits than a light spray every day.

### Minimise irrigation irritation

On that note, if you have an irrigation system- make sure you check it is in working order, is calibrated to suit the season and any maintenance undertaken. Having timed irrigation while you are away on holiday will save you from returning to a yellow desiccated wasteland. Mulching will also help the soil to retain moisture, reduce surface evaporation and keep the weeds at bay. Removing any dead foliage and leaves is also important to ensure fungal infections and pests are kept at bay.

### Stay cool in your pool

If you are lucky enough to already own a pool, it's probably up and running for the onslaught of the silly season. Having a pool in the heat of summer is the next level in outdoor entertainment. It's usually at this time of the year that installing a pool suddenly seems like a great idea. We've recently acquired Compass Pools Christchurch and can attest that pool enquiries soar alongside the rise in temperatures.



by Goom



There is a process involved in any pool installation, which takes time, whether it's a Compass or not. As the only pool with the self-cleaning vantage system, we're big fans of Compass – but we understand that for some sites a different type of pool (for example one constructed on site) might be a better option. We can seamlessly manage the process from design to your first splash, whichever pool you

opt for. It's a big decision (or rather a series of decisions) so having expert advice to guide you from the outset will reduce stress, timeframes and potentially costs. We're pretty excited about the synergy between Goom and Compass Christchurch, being able to get your pool in the ground and also ensuring it is optimised with stunning landscaping.

### Get planning!

December heralds in a new year. With your garden, it's the perfect time to register what works and what doesn't in your outdoors so you can plan ahead. Are the selection and location optimal for plants to thrive? Have you enough shelter from sun, rain and wind. Would a heating source give your outdoor entertaining greater longevity into the evening? Are you at the stage where a pool would perfect your outdoor space? Would a lighting design plan extend the usable areas of the garden after dark?

Having an awareness now will give you time to plan and prepare so that any design and construction can happen during the cooler months without disrupting your outdoor entertaining this summer and be ready for action next summer! In the meantime, enjoy the festive season and the stunning summer weather.

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