all about GARDEN TOURS

Tour News

FREDA HUNTER, Tour Manager, Canterbury Horticultural Society

On a beautiful summer’s day in January I was delighted to welcome over 60 members to our home and garden in Rangiora for lunch. This occasion was to celebrate the 2011 Tour season and to share memories with those present. A happy time was had by all. This was also an opportunity to announce the 2012 Tour Programme of short and longer break tours. Firstly overseas, in July is the Sunshine Coast Getaway, planned for a winter break in the warmth of the Sunshine Coast. November is Tempting Tasmania, explore Launceston and Hobart and enjoy spring in Tassie. Along with the Wearable Arts there will be other exciting New Zealand tours to come. Any inquiries you are most welcome to call in to see me at the office. Eftpos and credit card facilities now available.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

ELLERSLIE GARDEN TOURS 7 - 11 March
WELLINGTON WAIRARAPA & WAIKANAE 17 - 22 March
ELLAWS Stay Put Holiday
Noosa/Mooloolaba 23-30 July 2012
HIGHLIGHTS
Everglades National Park & Colourful Sands Tour; Tropical Private Gardens & Galleries, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Glasshouse Mountains, Moonville, Maleny, Brisbane sightseeing. Pools, spa and much more.
ITINERARY AVAILABLE
Avoid Disappointment - early bird bookings open

WELLINGTON WEARABLE ARTS 6 - 7 October 2012
SUNSHINE COAST GETAWAY 23 - 30 July 2012
WELLINGTON WEARABLE ARTS 6 - 7 October 2012
EXPERIENCE THE CHATHAMS 16 - 23 October 2012
TEMITING TASMANIA 3 - 11 Nov 2012

ELLERSLIE GARDEN TOURS 7 - 11 March
Ellerslie Garden Tours run from Wednesday 7 to Sunday 11 March and include a selection of full and half day tours. New tours for 2012 are Westlake & Tai Tapu Gardens, Heritage Homes & Gardens and a dedicated tour to Ohinetahi. Most tours provide morning tea and some include lunch and afternoon tea. An experienced guide will host each tour. The perfect complement to the Ellerslie International Flower Show.

WELLINGTON WEARABLE ARTS 6 - 7 October 2012
2 Nights Wellington. Highlights: Iconic Show, Wellington Botanic Gardens, Weta Workshop visit and much more from the capital city!

EXPERIENCE THE CHATHAMS 16 - 23 October 2012
Wilderness, history, flora & fauna - a repeat of this popular 7 day tour.
Highlights: Flora and fauna, visit to the private garden of Lois Croon, Chatham Island Forget-me-nots and daily excursions exploring the island.

7 Day Stay Put Holiday
Noosa/Mooloolaba 23-30 July 2012
HIGHLIGHTS
Everglades National Park & Colourful Sands Tour; Tropical Private Gardens & Galleries, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Glasshouse Mountains, Moonville, Maleny, Brisbane sightseeing. Pools, spa and much more.
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Sunshine Coast Getaway

all about GARDENING

A Bloom Amongst the Ruins
FLOWER BAZAAR, A florist’s shop with its very own garden
PHOTOGRAPHS CASSANDRA MCKNIGHT WORDS CYNTHIA KEPPEL

City in a garden, garden in a city – whichever way the rebuild of our battered city goes, there will be definitely be gardens. Getting in on the act early is Flower Bazaar, a florist’s shop with its very own garden. What could be more garden city than that?

This whimsical wee flower shop in Innes Road, run by Ian Harvey and Des Banks and home to ‘Flowers by Ian Harvey’, opened in July, right in the middle of our quaky times. It is literally blooming amongst the ruins. Presided over by the haughty golden gaze of Klimt’s ‘Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I’ and framed by ancient Indian carved shutters, this eclectic wee shop is full of fresh flowers, gifts, and old china (“mostly stuff with flowers”) all for sale with or without a floral arrangement.

But, while the shop is fascinating, it is the back garden that makes this shop unique. Walk out the back door and you will be amazed. An “earthquake” path, artfully paved with broken antique glass, china, and masonry, meanders through the garden. Funky pots – mainlyoverflowing with succulents and sedums which are a Flower Bazaar specialty – ancient fence posts, rusty rustic sculptures, and objects d’art appear amongst the plantings. This is a lush and lucious garden overflowing with the colourful, the unusual – and the useful. “It’s a real garden. I source special plants I like to use for my wedding arrangements and corsages, things that I don’t have to buy at the market,” says Ian, who has moved to the city from Ashburton where he was a florist and commercial rose grower for over 20 years.

In the garden, he points out a tree dahlia, feathery alliums “cool for corsage work”, ele

Flora and fauna, visit to the private garden of Lois Croon, Chatham Island forget-me-nots and daily excursions exploring the island.

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Canterbury Horticultural Society's new Executive Officer
Dr Michael Gousmett commenced as the Society’s Executive Officer in December. With a background in retailing, manufacturing, and education, Michael has spent over twenty years working in the charity and not-for-profit sector.
As a society with charitable purposes, as well as being a society of members, Michael sees an important role for members, with their extensive knowledge and experience, in the rebuild of the suburbs and city, and is looking forward to meeting with the various groups associated with, and affiliated to, the Society.

TOP TASKS
As we approach the end of summer it may seem like the gardening season is coming to a close, but as any keen gardener will tell you there’s always plenty that can be done. Here’s our top tasks for the season:
• Buy and plant spring-flowering bulbs.
• Prune rambling roses and spray against mite.
• Prune trees and shrubs so they settle in before winter.
• Renove lauryns by carpeting and spiking and sow any bare patches with seed.
• Sow vegetables like spinach, beetroot, broad beans, turnips and leek.
• Tidy up the flower beds, add compost and plant primrose, pansies and lily.
• If any major tree pruning is required now is a good time to have this done.
• Trim box hedges in March (or before winter) and keep your topiary smart with a manicure.
• Decide herbaceous perennials while the roots are still active. Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals.

NZ Registered Magazine ISSN 1179-9684
As one of the four past gold medal winners at the Ellerslie International Flower Show, the Canterbury Horticultural Society has been invited back to this year’s show to create an “inner city courtyard or rooftop garden for Christchurch of the future” as one of the marquee exhibition gardens. Landscape architect Tony Milne (Rough and Milne Landscape Architects Ltd [RMLA]) is designing the exhibition garden for the Society. As a play on words to promote the Society’s ‘Love Your Garden’ campaign, Tony has come up with a design that bases itself on the concept of love IN YOUR GARDEN.

The garden will represent a metaphorical story of plant and human resilience, told through a sculptural display of abstracted flower anatomy within a regenerating post-earthquake setting. We can expect to see an exhibition garden that is creative and meaningful, whilst sustainable and somewhat romantic.

At the focal point of the garden, a ‘glove of stamens’ dance around the pistil in a romantic display of affection, alluding to what will ultimately generate new life, reminding and inspiring us of the resilient life cycle of a flowering plant, even in the most damaged environment. The ‘glove of stamens’ is made up of 12 metal poles of varying heights and angles that extend up out of the garden. Eight of these poles (the filament) will have rolled reinforcing mesh baskets to the top, an abstraction of an anther. These anthers will contain a number of product items from transistor radios to firewood, tins of baked beans, apple, corn, bags of rice and bottled water. The familiar survival items allude to the resilience metaphor – sending a message of being prepared and providing sustenance for oneself. The role of a flower is to reproduce, and thus the anthers full of pollen play a crucial role in this, likewise anther baskets full of food will sustain. One of the stamens has wind fins to the top, suggestive of alternative means of energy production. Five of the stamens will be up-lit washing the anthers with light at night.

The remaining three poles, an abstraction of the stigma, will rise from the pistil within the garden. The pistil will be slightly mounded and undulating in form and is mass planted in a groundcover fern (a New Zealand native alternative to a lawn plant). The stamen will be up-lit lighting the anthers with light at night.

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On the two walls of the garden, abstract William Morris patterns as well as text from Romeo and Juliet provide the backdrop to the garden setting. These walls will be washed with light in the evenings.

GOING FOR GOLD, the CHS at Ellerslie

**Love (in) Your Garden**

Tony Milne on the Ellerslie International Flower Show

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As Director of RMLA Tony specialises in undertaking and managing the landscape design side of the project. Tony tutors Landscape as Director of RMLA Tony specialises in undertaking and managing the landscape design side of the project. Tony tutors Landscape Architecture students at Lincoln University and is currently an examiner for the detailed design and documentation paper for second year students.
After being a rose fancier for more than 40 years you’d think I would know when a rose was a rose. While driving around Auckland’s North Shore recently my wife spotted a Rose Show sign which for me was an irresistible invitation. I was unsure whether I detected a sigh next morning when I set off with an over-the-shoulder remark that my wife could have some time to herself. In an aside which occurred while I was admiring a ribbon of Auckland’s premier blooms, I was distracted by a familiar voice. Wondering whether it belonged to the legendary Irish rose breeder, I peered between petals. Sam McGredy was enjoying a chat over a cuppa with a group of fellow exhibitors. Chuffed at having seen the great man I resumed my tour. Amongst the colour I spotted an ugly green plant that looked as if it had been placed between the roses to fill a gap. I had no idea what it was and readily sought the opinion of a ruddy-faced woman wearing a name badge. “Oh, that,” she said. “It’s known as the Green Rose.” Somewhat gobsmacked I subsequently dipped into a number of rose publications in my library. I discovered that Green Rose (R. Viridiflora) described as a “freakish curiosity”, was found in South Carolina around 1833. Its growth is apparently akin to that of Old Blush and, according to my source, is possibly a mutation of that rose. A redeeming feature, perhaps, is Green Rose has traditionally been popular with flower arrangers. Oh well, as the old saying goes – “A rose is a rose is a rose.”
Discover the Wonder of Plants
Christchurch Botanic Gardens

We want children to have memories of the Gardens that are about getting close to nature as well as playing in the playground and pool. Every year we see new families discovering these activities as well as many regulars. Some are science-focused like Flower Power which explore pollination. Others like the Gnome Quest incorporate learning with popular fantasy figures.

The activities range from close observation of plants and puzzle solving to art-work and sensory experiences. Navigating your way around the gardens using I-spy poems or coded trail markers is always popular.

The next programme Leafy Legends starts on Good Friday 6th April and runs till 22nd April 2012.

Autumn Update
From House & Garden

If the answer lies in the soil – what is the question?
I have noticed over the years a steady decline in the sale of traditional legumes such as lupin and mustard seeds with the object of digging these in to the garden in early spring to enrich your soil with nitrogen.

I have heard that one of the main reasons many home gardeners are disappointed in their efforts is due to nitrogen depletion. I believe this has come about from generations of gardeners who have sprayed their garden with every commercially available pesticide or herbicide that they can get their hands on.

How many gardeners practice companion plantings to deter common garden pests these days?

In term of soil preparation there is a product available that is gaining rapid acceptance.

Following major research in India and Australia, House & Garden have formed a close working relationship with one of New Zealand’s largest worm farms to produce a product called TRANSFORM.

This is a mixture of 100% pure worm pooze, organic compost and poultry manure - with a number of significant benefits:

- It is neutral and can be used on any plant or shrub
- It is a “living” culture and goes straight to the root of the plant
- It unlocks the goodness from the soils which have been trapped due to years of spraying
- Being so dense it retains moisture so is also great for tubs and containers
- It really does work and promotes healthy growth due to the way it feeds the roots

This product is only available from House & Garden at Church Corner in Upper Riccarton.

The answer is very much in the soil – the question is how much TRANSFORM need you apply – surprisingly little!

Marigold Botanicus
www.housegarden.co.nz

Ramblers 2012
Getting To Know Your City

13 Mar Heathcote River walk
Meet at the Old Stone House

27 Mar Barrington/Oderings
Meet in Oderings’ car park
Stourbridge Street

10 Apr Victoria Park
Meet in car park by the Ranger’s house

24 Apr Holmes Park
Meet outside the park in English Street, Riccarton

8 May Walkway to Omaka
Meet in Sawyers Arms Road north of Johns Road

22 May Wigram Ponds
Meet at blind end of Templetons Road, Halswell

12 Jun Hagley Park
Meet at CHS Centre

26 Jun Farnley Reserve
Meet on Palantine Tce near Centaurus Road, Cashmere

Walks take place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and start at 9.30am.
More info: www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

Garage Sale
8.30am - 12.30pm
SATURDAY
31 March 2012

Cakes & Produce
Jams, Pickles & Sweets

Plants Galore
Herbs, Potted Plants etc...

White Elephant
Clothing, China, Children’s Clothing, Shoes Floral Art Containers, Toys & Games

Garden Products
Books, Garden Tools, Nitrophoska Potting Mix, Flowers & Posies

Manchester
Sausage Sizzle

Get ready - it’s going to be great!
Canterbury Horticultural Centre
57 Riccarton Ave, Hagley Park

Get ready - it’s going to be great!