

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 inquires 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 *Last Spaces!*

Registrations & Bookings

SUNSHINE COAST GETAWAY 23 - 30 July 2012

WELLINGTON WEARABLE ARTS 6 - 7 Oct 2012

EXPERIENCE THE CHATHAMS 16 - 23 Oct 2012

TEMPTING TASMANIA 3 - 11 Nov 2012



ELLERSLIE GARDEN TOURS 7 - 11 March 2012

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

WOW 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.



Sunshine Coast Getaway 7 Day Stay Put Holiday Noosa/Mooloolaba 23-30 July 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

Everglades National Park & Coloured Sands Tour, Tropical Private Gardens & Galleries, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Glasshouse Mountains, Montville, Maleny, Brisbane sightseeing. Pools, spa and much more.

ITINERARY AVAILABLE
Avoid Disappointment - early bird bookings open



Tempting Tasmania 8 Day Tour 3-10 November 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

2 nights Launceston, 4 nights Hobart
1 night Melbourne

Explore Hobart & Launceston, Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Port Arthur Historic site, Historic House & Gardens, Australia's Premier Arts & Craft Fair, Woolmer's Estate Rose Gardens Deloraine, Melbourne - Picturesque Mornington Peninsula plus much more.

\$4,400 member \$4,600 non-member
ITINERARY AVAILABLE
Avoid Disappointment - early bird bookings open

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 the by the haughty golden gaze of Klimt's 'Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer 1' 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 – mainly overflowing 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 luscious 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", elegia, which he uses for foliage, Onopordum acanthium, the silvery giant thistle, angelica and Nandina. He's proud two of his Dictamnus, the original burning bush, a stunning aeonium Schwarzkopf, a giant-leafed Crambe cordifolia, golden Brugmansia, an Asclepia, aka the butterfly bush. "Some things I grow to use, others I just grow because they are unusual. I have been given lots of treasures by people who have had to move out of their gardens after the quakes," he says.

For such a young garden, it's very lush. "It was formerly a butcher's shop and the offal probably got thrown out the back. It's really good soil," Ian laughs. For an interesting garden experience, pop into 406 Innes Road and talk to Ian in his garden, which incidentally, doubles as his workshop. Business in a garden!



Canterbury Horticultural Society News
No 189 March April May 2012



NEW FACES

Michael Gousmett
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 mildew.
- Plant trees and shrubs so they settle in before winter.
- Renovate lawns by scarifying and spiking and sow any bare patches with seed.
- Sow vegetables like spinach, beetroot, broad beans, turnips and swede.
- Tidy up the flower beds, add compost and plant primroses, pansies and like.
- If any major tree pruning is required now is a good time to have this done.
- Trim buxus hedging in March (or before winter) and keep your topiary smart with a manicure.
- Divide herbaceous perennials while the roots are still active. Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals.

GOING FOR GOLD, the CHS at Ellerslie

Love (in) Your Garden

Tony Milne on the Ellerslie International Flower Show



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 'grove of stamen' 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 'grove of stamen' 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 and soup, apples, 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 sole purpose 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 stamen has wind fins to the top, suggestive of alternative means of energy production. Five of the stamen 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 and a really useful plant for a roof garden) which will result in quite an abstract form morphing out of the ground. The three stigma poles will be wrapped in coloured acrylic which will be lit at night as will parts of the pistil mound.

Drifts of wildflowers (which often colonise recovering landscapes) blooming among areas of Aggrok surfacing represent the vibrant flower petals that provide a setting for the love dance. Aggrok is a recycled aggregate and rubber chip product that contains an organic binder. Orange traffic cones (as seen on many streets in Christchurch post earthquake) are the 'love guides' within the setting. This is an abstraction of the markings on the inside of the petals of some flowers that help guide insects to the nectaries that are at times hidden. The cones will be inverted and planted with flowers that will tumble and overflow.

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.

As Director of RMLA Tony specialises in undertaking and managing the landscape design side of the practice working on a wide range of projects including streetscapes, city plazas, subdivisions, campus development, reserves and residential sites for various government departments, regional and district councils and private clients throughout New Zealand. His experience also extends to the preparation of visual impact and landscape assessments and presentation of expert evidence. Tony tutors Landscape Architecture students attending Lincoln University and is currently an examiner for the detailed design and documentation paper for second year students.

From the President

Ross Beaumont



I trust you have all had a most enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break. The New Year finds the CHS facing a raft of changes that will require courage and persistence to carry through.

At the end of last year we bid farewell to our Interim Manager, Shirley Russ, who did a masterful job in sustaining us through the second half of our 150th anniversary year and setting our sights firmly on the future. With the completion of an overview and analysis of the Society headed by Rae Finlay, we now have an incisive and comprehensive "Business Plan" to continue the many activities the CHS currently pursues as well as promoting the many new ones its members continue to aspire to.

We are already well advanced on the next major project for the year, our entry to the "Ellerslie" Feature Gardens display to which we have been invited through our achievement of "Gold" in the first Christchurch "Ellerslie" Flower Show in 2009. Our volunteers are busy working on a very innovative design by Tony Milne of Rough and Milne, Landscape Architects, who has already donated much of his time to this CHS project.

The next project on our horizon is the "Love Your Garden" initiative first proposed late last year to focus the energies and resources of the Society on communities attempting recover from a year of ongoing earthquakes. Plans are in place to focus on damaged precincts of our "Garden City" that are struggling to regain their community structure. This community-based project will give our members practical direction to reach out and lend their support to fellow Cantabrians so in need of a path back to normality.

Finally, it gives me enormous pleasure to welcome on your behalf, our new Executive Officer, Dr. Michael Gousmett. He comes to us after a long and distinguished career in administration and financial management and will be charged with making the CHS the largest and most successful horticultural organisation in New Zealand.

His task will be to promote and support our activities, manage our assets and liaise with government and corporate entities to attract the additional funds that will see this dream become a reality.

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

March, April & May 2012

MARCH Tuesday 6th 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 7th 9.45 - 11.45am

In the Garden – Tips & Tasks & Your Questions with Michael Coulter From Your Gardens & Notice Board

Fabulously Floriferous Fuchsias - Fuchsia enthusiast Len Rhodes discusses the many varieties of fuchsia and provides expert tips on how to water, feed, and care for these colourful and hardy plants.

Heritage Roses - Fran Rawling, President, and Heather Knowles of Heritage Roses New Zealand will speak about the family of roses, from species to "modern" hybrids, gardening with the oldies, and give a brief update on post-earthquake Mona Vale Heritage Rose Garden.

APRIL Tuesday 3rd 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 4th 9.45 - 11.45am

Presentation - Summer Garden Awards (Tuesday evening only)

In the Garden – Tips & Tasks & Your Questions with Michael Coulter From Your Gardens & Notice Board

Topiary – the moveable garden - Moving? Downsizing? Jean Osborne of Artistic Plants shows how you can have a stylish garden that you can pick up and take with you.

Oranges and Lemons, the Bells of St Clements... - John Penny of Nelson's Thirkettles Nurseries on the do's and don'ts for successfully growing citrus in Christchurch and how to grow these golden orbs in containers.

MAY Tuesday 1st 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 2nd 9.45 - 11.45am

In the Garden – Tips & Tasks & Your Questions with Michael Coulter From Your Gardens & Notice Board

Colour Your Winter - Freda Hunter, CHS queen of potted colour, shows us how to plant up a pot properly and comes up with clever new planting combinations..

A Gardener's Journey - Prof. Ian Spellerberg reminisces about his love of gardening that has taken him from a single gladiolus corm called 'Atom' to an entire landscape called Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury.

All About Gardening is held at the CHS Centre in Hagley Park on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. \$3 members, \$7 non-members. Includes morning tea / supper, tea & coffee

IS BEAUTIFUL STATIONERY JUST YOUR CUP OF TEA?



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PARKING UPDATE

Parking is going to be an ongoing issue for some time at the CHS. If you are coming to the Horticultural Centre for meetings or to the office, please let the parking wardens know so they can wave you through. Your patience is appreciated.

From Dirt to Dinner

Mary Duff, admirer & manipulator of the fruits of the earth



You say Broccoli, I Say Broccolini

My last flat had a back yard. The kind that so many people dream of. It had a large garage that had been converted into a lounge complete with a ping-pong table, TV, fridge, comfy sofas and a bar.

It also had a large raised patch in the corner that was probably once a veggie garden but time and weed cutters had turned it into an acceptable renters lawn.

I moved in and slowly turned it back into a lovely productive patch, with permission of the landlord of course.

Metre by metre I turned the turf upside down and planted the usual westerner seedlings which all grew so pretty well.

The Broccoli didn't grow so well and didn't form very good heads but I picked them any way and lazily left the plant. Within a week I could see little florets forming at the base of each leaf stem.

Soon after the florets grew into long stem miniature broccoli similar to Broccolini. The plant kept getting bushier and kept producing diverting branches all summer. I had so many delicious dinners with them.

My local garden centre tells me this growth is quite common with Broccoli but there is nothing better than discovering something new for oneself.

I now live in a shoebox with a courtyard surrounded by 10-foot concrete walls.

My gardening is currently confined to pots but it is enough to keep me sane.

Mary Duff is a Food Technologist who loves food and gardening. Mary is originally from a beef and cropping farm on the South Canterbury border so perhaps this explains her dirt to dinner fascination.

HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE?
Next edition deadline: Friday 27 April 2012
All material via email to: info@chsgardens.co.nz

Summer Garden Awards

February 2012

HOME GARDENS

Premier Garden

R T Tosswill Memorial Trophy



Peter Lawrence, Styx Mill

Winner Cadian Shield

Renee & Les Dick, Westlake

HOME GARDENS BY CLASS

Class 1 Sun Newspaper Challenge Rose Bowl

Winner 5 Star Garden

Peter Lawrence, Styx Mill

4 Star Plus Garden

Terence Burt, Shirley

Class 2 R E McDougall Challenge Trophy

Winner 5 Star Garden

Peter Van der Zee, Redwood

5 Star Garden

Colleen & Brian Briggs, Spreydon

4 Star Garden

AJ Neilson, DV Hearn,

Certificate of Merit

Peter Ward, Ilam

Class 3 Mrs A C Johns Challenge Trophy

Winner 4 Star Plus Garden

Mr & Mrs R G Hart, Halswell

4 Star Garden

Peter & Jane Gooding, Burnside

Class 5 J H Doyle Trophy

Winner 5 Star Garden

Renee & Les Dick, Westlake

5 Star Garden

Audrey & Stewart Nicholson, Sockburn

Class 6

Certificate of Merit

Mervyn Rodgers, Northwood

Special Certificate for excellent floral display

Joyce A Reid, Parklands

Class 13

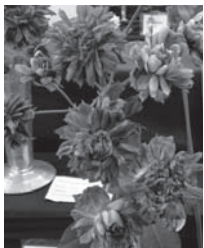
Highly Commended Award for Organic Gardens

John Norton, Bromley



A 'Freakish Curiosity'

By Allan Horwell, Canterbury Rose Society



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 exhibi-

tors. 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."

Garden Club News

Local Happenings

St Albans enjoyed their Christmas Lunch meeting in November with Dave Petrie entertaining on the piano. Springston had a great Christmas outing visiting 3 lovely gardens with lunch provided by the Cancer Support group at Shirley.

In November Stratford went on a day trip to visit the beautiful gardens at Cust. They held their Christmas Lunch at Melton Estate which was very successful.

Parklands had a full bus of happy ladies to go on their end of year Christmas trip to visit two gardens, taking a shared Christmas lunch with them. First stop was Suzette's Gardens where a fantastic High Tea was served followed by a visit to Trott's Garden which was equally enjoyable.

A small number of Darfield Garden Club members visited Otira Valley with some of the Alpine Club members; it was a very interesting and informative day out.

Wairarapa Stream members went on a visit to the Cust rose gardens followed by lunch at the Cust Pub, (very good pies at the pub). After lunch members did a little shopping in the various shops in Cust. Governors Bay Garden Club held a Christmas Party and auction in December.

Michael Coulter was the guest speaker for Upper Riccarton Sockburn in February. Members learnt that the chrysanthemum is a native of China. The name 'chrysanthemum' translates as 'golden flower' and the first flowers were yellow. Very informative!

We
Need
You!

WANTED!

Goods for the
Garage Sale

Donations welcome for
Raffles, Vouchers, Food,
Garden Items and any other
goodies.

Please Bring along to the next
All About Gardening meeting
6th & 7th March

Discover the Wonder of Plants

Christchurch Botanic Gardens



ON THE FLOWER POWER TRAIL
Children use codes to work out the animals that pollinate different coloured flowers

Discover the wonder of plants with the under 10s. During the April, July and October school holidays the Botanic Gardens offers self-guided activities for the under 10s and their caregivers.

The discovery trails all start at the Gardens Information Centre where families pick up free trail booklets. They take about 45 minutes to complete and follow a different route and theme each time.

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.

Christchurch
Botanic Gardens

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

the 2012 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