Welcome to the Garden City

Colin Meurk  Honorary Botanist, Canterbury Horticultural Society

“We welcome the Garden City” as we bump onto the airport runway… a sobriquet that’s served cities around the world well for a hundred years. To debate its relevance to 21st century Christchurch on these pages will ruffle foliage, but needs to happen. I look around the cabin and see busy or bored indifference while younger ones retreat into some virtual, anti-gardenesque reality. Yet they also are dependent on plants for food, amenity and inspiration. Everyone needs to understand biology for their survival; gardens are holistic teachers of many hues: heritage gardens – a snapshot of historic aesthetics; the native pocket park exhibited in the 2012 Ellerslie Flower Show (re-installed outside the CCC Restart Office, Lichfield St). Tussock-fem-lined river banks with weeping, golden kowhai brimming with melodious bellbirds and imagined parklands of totara and matai laden with kereru – go with a reinvented green, sustainable city edgy, bold and beautiful - not a place from which young people leave in droves or pass through en route to ski-fields.

Colour, structure, texture, function meaning and layered history are all important. “Garden City” trips off the tongue so comfortably, but it is fusty to the city’s inheritors. I love the world’s plants in their wild homes, but shrink from ‘extreme gardening’ – of instant reality. Yet they also are dependent on retreat into some virtual, anti-gardenesque boredom indifference while younger ones.

Our marketing strategy is a circular process (we get what we want) and the circle is getting smaller. History speaks – whether it’s bullet marks in downtown buildings of Dunkirk or

From the President

What a momentous year this has been for the Society!

We have implemented our new Constitution with a very much smaller Management Board. Through careful budgeting and help from your donations our finances have moved into the black. We have welcomed our new, very competent Office Staff, Tony Kunowski, Manager, and Liz Parder as Office Administrator. Our newsletter has changed to an up-to-date monthly version which we hope you will enjoy.

As the decision on the Oval will impact on the Society, our Board are working with the Authorities to find viable solutions. Join our Ramblers for friendly exercise Tuesday mornings twice a month.

Till next month,

Elizabeth Peacock

From the Manager

Recently I’ve been concentrating my efforts at both ends of the operational-strategic spectrum. It’s vital that we maintain accurate records of our members and with the help of volunteers, staff and consultants we’ve made huge progress in updating the database and introducing a new membership number system. Major benefits will accrue. Strategically we’re seeking to collaborate with other organisations in order to increase our outreach and influence in the city. The Festival of Transitional Architecture (FESTA) is sponsoring an urban agriculture project (Agropolis). It wants to prepare a site that composts waste coming from inner city hospitality and businesses and use this to grow food. It’s a collaborative effort involving Garden City 2.0 and the Otautahi Youth Council among others. I’m hoping many members will actively support this project. The long term payoff could be considerable!
Canterbury Horticultural Society
info@chsgardens.co.nz • tel (03) 366 6937 • www.chsgardens.co.nz

Plant of the Month
Camellia 'Curly Lady' NEW AT ODERINGS!

This new and original camellia is unlike any other on the market, with beautiful, spirally, twisting lateral branches that turn this easy to grow shrub into a feature plant. It grows with an upright and outwardly spreading habit and creates a lush backdrop in the garden, and rewards you with large semi-double rich red flowers in late winter and spring. Curly lady grows to 3m high x 1.5m wide. Plant in full sun or part shade. Great for pots, screening and hedging.

Top Tasks September

Lawns – now is a good time to treat for moss using a moss killer or sulphate of iron. Towards the end of the month as it gets warmer spray for broad leaf weeds; follow up with a good balanced lawn fertilizer.

Flower Garden – as flowering shrubs finish flowering thin out and prune back to encourage growth for next seasons flowers. Cut back to ground level any growth at the base of chrysanthemums to encourage new healthy shoots before lifting and dividing. Divide dahlia tubers ensuring that each tuber has an eye or shoot before replanting. Divide healthy shoots before lifting and dividing. Seed can be now sown of the Summer flowers in a glasshouse to be ready for planting later when the ground and weather is warmer.

Vegetable Garden – Brassicas can now be planted and sown in the ground as can Lettuces. Peas and snow peas can also be sown. Potatoes should be set out in trays to shoot before planting. Any ground that will be used for growing tomatoes should now be made ready by digging in compost adding lime and a light dressing of super phosphate at least a good month before planting. Keep garlic well weeded to allow it to grow well. As fruit trees come into flower and leaf watch for signs of any insects and diseases.

Tour with us

Welcome to Spring! Thank-you for the great response and feedback for the tours. We are up and away and delighted to announce the following tours:

- WOW World of Wearable Arts Wellington Friday 4 - Sunday 6 Oct 2013 (2 places left)
- Azaleas & Rhododendrons Look & Learn Cancelled due to lack of interest
- Perennials & The Chelsea Chop 9.30am-3pm Wednesday 20 Nov 2013 Demonstrations, nursery visit, vote for your top 10 perennials. Morning tea provided, BYO lunch $25pp Car Pool Bookings open
- Timaru Festival of Roses Short Break 29 November - 1 December 2013 From $715 Bookings open
- Alpines in Flower Field Tour with the CHS Ramblers Details to come

Quiz Time

From which plant are these products derived?
1. Flour 4. Custard
2. Saffron 5. Sauer Kraut
3. Milk

Answers online www.chsgardens.co.nz

M J Barnett Memorial Lecture

7.30pm Wednesday 25 September
Canterbury Horticultural Centre

The M J Barnett Memorial Lecture is conducted by the Canterbury Horticultural Society in honour of the late Mr M J Barnett, Director of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens for over 30 years.

This year we are delighted to announce Dr Harold Koopowitz will be joining us to present “Plant Hunting Around the World.”

Early Bird ticket sales available until Monday 9 September $20 (usually $25) Tickets available online at www.chsgardens.co.nz or at the CHS office

Junior Gardeners

Junior Gardeners meet on the third Thursday of each month from 3.45pm to 5pm. This is an interactive programme where young people learn about plants and how to grow them. Each month we talk about a special plant and its origins and culture before undertaking some practical gardening. The children contribute their own gardening experiences and question the activities we are doing. In July and August we learned how to plant seed trays of vegetables, and to transplant the seedlings into trays to grow on ready to plant out into the Spring garden. The children will then take the plants home and later plant them in their own garden. We will then start some bedding plants for Summer flowering.

Plot to Pot

Red Quinoa, Feta & Spinach Salad

Ingredients:
- 200g red quinoa
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 garlic clove crushed
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 200g block feta cheese, crumbled
- 1/2 cucumber diced
- 150g baby spinach or rocket
- 4 spring onions shredded

1. Cook the quinoa according to pack instructions. Drain well then toss with oil, vinegar, garlic and cumin while warm.
2. Toss through the rest of the ingredients, check seasoning and serve

All About Gardening

7pm - 9.45pm Tuesday 1 October
9.45am - 10.45am Wednesday 2 October

FESTA and Garden City 2.0: transitioning to a culture of urban farming.

Bailey Peryman and Jessica Halliday explain this exciting new initiative.

Wee Spring Treasures

Sue Petersen from Behind the Hedge, talks about special Spring bulbs and alpine blooms and shares the secrets of growing asparagus, raspberries, and blueberries for the local markets.

NB: Sue will have a selection of plants for sale. Bring your purse – lots of change please!

CHS Centre South Hagley Park
Members: $5.00 non-members: $10.00

Tea, coffee and refreshments included