Garden City 2.0: a response to Colin Meurk

Bailey Peryman an aspiring urban farmer

By questioning the relevance of the identity of Christchurch as a Garden City, Colin Meurk has started an important dialogue that warrants response. Food is a great way to explore again the Garden City concept, which was originally created to address poor health and living conditions by merging the best of city social life with the best of nature and the fruits of rural living.

I founded a new social enterprise called ‘Garden City 2.0’, a business run for the purpose of achieving what has traditionally been the domain of charitable organisations.

We often get asked, ‘what does 2.0 mean?’ 2.0 is IT jargon for the new and improved version of software – so Garden City 2.0 is the new and improved version of the Garden City (Christchurch), one where a community food culture inspires the deep transformation to 21st century sustainability, health and wellbeing for all. Local, organic food and grown in abundance.

Our mission aims to create time for us to continue investing in community and local food projects, like school gardens, food forests and a scalable, transitional urban farm demonstration in the city centre.

The Garden City of yesterday would struggle to plate up a culturally inspired cuisine and tell the story of where the produce came from. Yet we have a climate that can support a richly diverse, regional food culture and fresh food abundance for all in this city.

The 21st century Garden City of Christchurch is a place where good food is a given, communities’ can provide for themselves and we share together this abundant food grown locally, organically and celebrate it with the seasons.

Garden City 2.0 is looking for volunteers to help grow its reach to new communities. More information www.gardencity.org.nz or hello@gardencity.org.nz

You can hear more from Bailey Peryman at the October All About Gardening meeting.

From the President

The recent AGM saw the retirement of Ross Beaumont and Jim Anderton, both of whom have made significant contributions to the Society. Sir Miles Warren has since stepped down as Patron to be replaced by Neil Drain. Neil was presented with the very prestigious Associate of Honour, Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Award, one of only twenty in New Zealand.

The new Board is myself again as President, Alan Jolliffe as Vice President, Athol McCully, Annette Hill, Ray King, Margaret Swords and Dagmar Goekoe. Kowhai Awards were presented to Leitha Adams, Jeanette Smith, Norma Tod, Heather Strong, Patsy Tainui and Neville Utting, well done. A special Silver Service Award was presented to Freda Hunter for her many years of outstanding service. Congratulations Freda on being the first recipient of this prestigious award.

Enjoy your Spring gardening,

Elizabeth Peacock

From the Manager

The Horticultural Centre was inspected thoroughly by professional engineers for earthquake damage which confirmed that it was still structurally sound for continued occupancy and use but that significant repairs would be required in order to protect “the long term integrity” of the building.

The extent of these repairs has been assessed and will involve re-levelling the floor of the Templin Hall and the south-west corner of the Watling Lounge. The builders would prefer complete closure of the Centre while all repairs are undertaken, however this is not feasible so a “room by room” approach will be taken. This will cause considerable disruption for both us and our hirers. Whilst we will do our best to minimise this disruption I ask for your forbearance during this difficult period. This is just a heads up.

More details will follow!

Tony Kunowski
Plant of the Month

*Potato Tom™* NEW AT ORDERINGS!

Tomatoes are members of the potato family and so are naturally compatible with potatoes. Improved growing methods and better use of space has paved the way for this intriguing concept.

When growing your POTATO TOM™ you are best to treat it as you would a normal Cherry Tomato. This means planting in good soil or growing in a sunny, well sheltered position. The Gardener’s Delight is a strong growing tomato and it needs to be staked and trained to support its prolific and ongoing crop of delicious small fruit.

The potato roots will in most cases send up shoots from alongside the grafted shoot. Let these develop and grow under your staked tomato, but don’t mound the potatoes as this will cover the graft. *Available Mid October*

Top Tasks October

Prepare ground for planting warmer loving outside plants such as tomatoes, peppers and courgettes by digging in compost and fertilizers.

Sow onions, silver beet, lettuce and cabbages to get a continuous supply of produce.

Feed and treat lawns for broad leaf weeds but do not cut too low.

Watch out for slugs and snails in the garden especially in hostas and other perennials as they start to grow.

At green tip on stone fruit get another copper spray on to help prevent leaf curl.

Start tuberous begonias growth by putting tubers two thirds into potting mix in pots or trays and placing in a warm place.

Divide or take cuttings of chrysanthemums and other perennials.

Look out for aphids and other pests around the garden and green house; treating them now before populations get too high.

Prune fuchsias now to encourage strong growth and plenty of flowers.

Perennials & the Chelsea CHOP

**Quiz Time**

From which plant are these products derived?

1. Tea 4. Beer
2. Vanilla 5. Malt
3. Pinot Noir

Answers online [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz)

**Perennials & the Chelsea CHOP**

**Look, Learn & Enjoy!**

**Hunters House & Garden** Rangiara

*Wednesday 20 November 9.45am CBS Arena, Jack Hinton Drive*

**Demonstration - How to prune perennials**

*Vote for your Top 5 perennials* $20 (car pool $5 to driver)

**NURSERY VISIT: Behind the Hedge**

**Demonstration - How to make a light and easy trough.**

‘Behind the Hedge’ are growers of rare and unusual perennials and alpines. Plants, asparagus and free range eggs for sale on the day.

**Tickets:** CHS Office tel: (03) 366 6937

**Email:** tours@chsgardens.co.nz

Spring Show 2013

Six hundred stems of daffodils were displayed in the CHS section of the combined Spring Show. Five Garden Clubs added to the spectacle of the show. A visual spectacle this show is, unequalled anywhere in the world. The displays of alpine and rare plants grown to perfection balanced by a display of rhododendrons alongside the daffodils leaves many pleasant memories.

**All About Gardening**

7pm - 9.45pm **Tue 5 November**

9.45am - 10.45am **Wed 6 November**

**Friends of the Botanic Gardens** have been celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Gardens, but what exactly do they do? Long time friend Faye Fleming explains.

**Weird and wonderful** insect eating plants are quite fascinating and often very beautiful. Ross Taylor, who runs the Carnivorous Plant Nursery in Geraldine, shares the secrets of his passion.

Ross will have lots of plants for sale, so once again bring plenty of cash for purchases!

**CHS Centre, South Hagley Park**

**Members:** $5 non-members: $10

**Tea, coffee and refreshments included**