Redefining the Garden City

Tony Kunowski  Manager, CHS

We’ve come a long way since Austin Mitchell’s seminal parody on life in New Zealand – the Half Gallon, Quarter Acre Pavlova Paradise. The forces of urban land economics coupled with changing lifestyles and the fast food industry have transformed the landscape.

Multi-unit, multi-storey apartment blocks have insulated their occupants from the “instant makeover, manicured within a millimetre of its mono-cultural life” that so appals Colin Meurk. Many of these apartment blocks are now just rubble and vacant lots which dominate the CBD. These have spurred a new level of community interest and creativity as evidenced by Bailey Perryman’s Garden City 2.0 and its current urban farm project. Is this “communityarism” the shape of things to come or merely a passing phase as the city rebuild proceeds based around much greater green spaces interspersed with the inevitable concrete, glass and steel corporate edifices?

Both Bailey’s and Colin’s articles attested to our dependence on plants for food, however the development of agribusiness spurned our dependence on plants for food, however the development of agribusiness spurned

As fossil fuels dwindle and energy prices escalate, and exacerbated by more frequent extreme weather events caused by climate change, it is likely that informed city-dwellers will seek a degree of self-reliance and develop an interest in growing their own food, be it in window boxes, vertical gardens, rooftops, community gardens or the old fashioned allotments.

In this new urban environment underpinned by a greater recognition of “sustainability”, it is highly probable that Bailey’s perception of “a community food culture inspires the deep transformation to 21st century sustainability, health and wellbeing for all” will become the new reality. Then it’ll be “Christchurch – the city that eats!” And we’ll still have Hagley Park!

Next month Alan Jolliffe adds his views on the future of the Garden City.

From the President

What a Spring we have had this year! Nature has thrown nearly everything at us, but what a joy to see the colour back in Christchurch again.

The Ramblers have walked through the gardens at Otahuna and Ilam University - both were spectacular. Do join in with our November walks at Lincoln and Kaiapoi. Congratulations to the Tai Tapu Garden Club which celebrated its 60th birthday in October with a wonderful lunch at Otahuna. It was a privilege for Annette and me to be there.

The baskets by Ballantynes will need replanting shortly, hopefully many of you will volunteer again to maintain them. Please let me know if you can help. We would also love to hear your ideas for the next Barnett Memorial Lecture. Contact the CHS with your suggestions for topics or speakers. Finally, thanks to our organisers, the Members’ Evening at Oderings was again very successful, with lots of gardening goodies going out the door.

Happy gardening, Elizabeth

From the Board

Kia ora from Dagmar Goekel!

First of all, thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the Board of the Canterbury Horticultural Society. I’m very excited about being part of the rebuild and redefinition of New Zealand’s Garden City. But who am I? I am 33 and lived my first 30 years in the South of Germany, where I learnt to love beer, sausages, cosy beer gardens, and being outside in nature. After finishing my PhD in Molecular Sciences & Biotechnology in 2010, I came to Christchurch to start a new life with my partner André. In the last three years lots has happened but we love it here so much. We live in Hei Hei and I work for Landcare Research as an Ecological Geneticist.

On the weekends we enjoy whitewater kayaking, while getting used to the joys and duties of home ownership. But there is nothing better than jumping in the garden after work for a couple of hours to clear the head. I’m looking forward to meeting you all soon.

Hei konā rā… Dagmar

Calendar of Events

JUNIOR GARDENERS
Thu 21 Nov 3.45pm-5pm
Plant Identification PC Browne Room

CHS RAMBLERS
Tue 12 Nov 9.30am Lincoln Walkway
Meet corner Edward & Gerald Streets
Tue 26 Nov 9.30am Kaiapoi
Meet at the Recreational Reserve, Fairweather Crescent, Kaiapoi

LOCAL EVENTS
Guy Fawkes Fireworks Display
Tues 5 Nov 9.00pm New Brighton Pier
Cup & Show Week
Fri 8 - Sat 16 Nov Christchurch
Canterbury A&P Show
Wed 13 - Fri 15 Nov 8.00am - 5.30pm
Tickets: $20. Senior (Wed/Thu only) $10
Visit the CHS Stand – Trade Pavilion, Site II, Northcote Drive side
Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park
Sat 30 Nov 7.30pm North Hagley Park

Daffodil Circle
Mon 11 Nov 7.30pm Watling Room
Begonia Circle
Wed 13 Nov 7.30pm Watling Room
Christchurch Beautifying Assoc
Wed 13 Nov 7.30pm Board Room
Chrysanthemum Circle
Mon 18 Nov 7.30pm Watling Room
Canterbury Rose Society
Tue 19 Nov 7.30pm PC Browne Room
Floral Art Society
Thu 21 Nov 1.30pm PC Browne Room
Fuchsia Circle
Mon 25 Nov 6.30pm PC Browne Room
Mon 9 Dec 5.30pm Xmas Dinner Watling Room

Fruit & Vegetable Circle
Pot Luck Dinner Bring partners; own utensils, glasses and plates.
Wed 27 Nov 6.30pm Watling Room
Canterbury Orchid Society
Mon 2 Dec 7.30pm Watling Room
Garden Club Reps Meeting
Tue 3 Dec 16am PC Browne Room

ALL ABOUT GARDENING
Special Christmas Session
Tuesday 3 December 7pm
Wednesday 4 December 9:45am
**Plant of the Month**  
**Exclusive Perennial Petunias • NEW AT ODERINGS!**

Create extraordinary baskets and dazzling planters, patios or garden borders with a huge range of new exclusive perennial trailing petunias which all pack a bounty of flowers.

We love the standout Petunia “Trinity” with its bright lime flowers and deep burgundy stripes.

Available in store exclusively at Oderings or online at [www.oderings.co.nz](http://www.oderings.co.nz)

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**Top Tasks November**  
**Michael Coulter**

Warmer weather is here so we can now get on with planting all the warm loving plants outside.

**Vegetable Garden** - sow pumpkin, sweet corn, beans, courgettes and other summer plants.

Plant in warm parts of the garden tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and chillies.

Keep cutting asparagus and keep up the water on the rhubarb to ensure a good supply.

Look out for pests and disease on fruit trees.

Liquid feed strawberries to help give good size fruit and a continuous supply.

**Flower Garden** - keep up water on daffodils until tops start to die down to give good flowers next season and treat for bulb fly.

Summer flowers can now be planted.

Keep up water and liquid feeds on roses and lilies to keep them in good health.

Trim up hedges as the spring flush of growth finishes.

**Lawns** - mow lawns regularly and feed and water to make them nice and green.

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**Tour with us**

This month our **Perennials & the Chelsea CHOP Look, Learn & Enjoy tour** has been very popular and is full with a waitlist. Our tour for Rose Lovers, **Romance of the Rose** is also filling fast.

In the office we are busy planning the **Ellerslie Garden Tours** and have some wonderful treats in store for late February to coincide with the Ellerslie International Flower Show. [Brochure available December](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz).

**Romance of the Rose**

Timaru Festival of Roses **Short Break**  
29 November - 1 December 2013  
From $715  
[Spaces filling fast](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz).

**Ramblers Alpines in Flower** Field Tour  
Look, Learn & Enjoy **Day Tour**  
Friday 6 December 2013  
Information and bookings CHS Office

**West Coast Wonders & Beyond**  
14 - 16 March 2014  
[Short Break](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz).

A true West Coast experience with guide Patsy Tainui. [Brochure available late November](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz).

**Misty Mountains & Doubtful Sound Cruise**  
7 - 13 April 2014  
[Details December](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz).

Visit our website for full listings or contact tours@chsgardens.co.nz.  
**We would love to meet you on tour!**

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**Quiz Time**

Give the common name for these plant genera?


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

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**Plot to Pot**

**Panfried Asparagus with Feta**

Serves 4

**Ingredients**

1 bunch fresh asparagus  
100 gm feta  
2 hard boiled eggs  
50 ml olive oil  
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar  
Basil leaves or rocket microgreens

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cut the feta in cubes, coarsely chop the eggs. Chop the basil. Wash and dry the asparagus and cut the stems.

Place the hot asparagus on a serving platter, add vinegar to the pan and scrape up all the pan drippings with a wooden spoon, add the basil and add this sauce to the asparagus. Sprinkle over the chopped eggs and feta and decorate with basil leaves. **Serve**

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**All About Gardening**

**Christmas Spectacular**

7pm - 9pm Tue 3 December  
9.45am - 11.45am Wed 4 December

**Canterbury Philharmonia Orchestra**  
Special Christmas Performance  
Tuesday evening session only

**Festive Supper/Morning Tea**

**Living Gifts**

Innovative young florists present ideas for beautiful Christmas gifts that last and last.

**Christmas Musical Interlude**

Wednesday morning session only  
CHS Centre, South Hagley Park  
Members: $7  
non-members: $12

Tea, coffee and refreshments included

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**Spring Garden Awards 2013**

**Winner 4 Star Garden**  
Peter and Jane Reed

**Winner 4 Star Plus Garden**  
Janet and Brian Lovelock

**Winner 5 Star Garden**  
Peter Van Der Zee

[Commercial, Community & Retirement Home winners listed online at www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz).