



Ellerslie Garden Tours

Don't forget to include a tour with your Ellerslie Experience! 26 February - 2 March 2014

Preparing the garden in this wild and windy summer season is no small feat for garden owners, especially those who open their gardens (and in many cases, homes) for the CHS Ellerslie Garden Tours Programme.

Jo Free whose garden Silverwood features in the 'Country Gardens West of the City' tour comments, "A variety of hedging is essential in our large garden for shelter and is also provides good structure.

Trimming and shaping gives a sharpness to the design. Pruning and deadheading the perennials will give me a second flush of flowers. This all creates a freshness in the garden."

Freda Hunter, who opens her house and garden in the 'Room to Room, Ohoka & Rangiora' tour notes how important it is to have supports in place for this windy season. "Many plants can be damaged by winds, especially dahlias and roses so preparing shelter and support before the winds strike is imperative. Monitoring the garden for moisture levels and watering to keep plants growing is also necessary.

Creating new colour schemes and adding



accessories gives a new look to rooms inside and outside the house."

Like many gardeners Freda loves to harvest vegetables from the kitchen garden. Beetroot and zucchinis have been exceptional this year - do share any new recipes by emailing info@chsgardens.co.nz!

We do hope you will be inspired join one of the Ellerslie Garden Tours and enjoy a day out with like minded people.

Most tours provide morning tea and some have lunch and afternoon tea.

An experienced guide will host each tour.

All tours depart from the coach stop near Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Ave.

Tickets available from the CHS Office or online www.chsgardens.co.nz

From the President - A Garden is born

Welcome to another year. May it be better

began the humungous task of turning a waste space into a garden.



On Friday, the third morning, our numbers were down to 5, with 4.5cubic meters of bark to spread and what felt like several hundred plants to place. By 10am we all needed a coffee. Around then a group of 7 very handsome young men in immaculate coloured suits stopped to talk. Jokingly I asked if they could help us. Off came their jackets, up rolled their sleeves and they spent the next couple of hours helping.

than any other. The week before Christmas, the CHS installed the Alhambra Garden on the corner of New Regent and Armagh Streets. After weeks of frustration and design changes, a small group, Tony, Neville, Bob, Denis, Andy, Peter, Dave and myself

Cousins from England, they had only landed here four hours ago and were delighted to do something to help the City. Without their help, the garden would not have been finished.

Heartfelt thanks to them and to our team for their time and energy. *Elizabeth*

Calendar of Events

CHS RAMBLERS

*Tue 11 Feb 9.30am Summer
Meet Clock Tower, Scarborough Pk, the Esplanade.*

*Tue 25 Feb 9.30am Redwood
Meet Murchison Pk, Lowry Ave*

CHS AFFILIATES

Orchid Society
Tue 4 Feb 6.30pm Watling Room

Begonia Circle
Wed 12 Feb 7.00pm PC Browne Room

Christchurch Beautifying Assoc
Wed 12 Feb 7.30pm Board Room

Chrysanthemum Circle
Mon 17 Feb 7.30pm Watling Room

Canterbury Rose Society
Tue 18 Feb 6pm PC Browne Room

Floral Art Circle
Thu 20 Feb 1.30pm PC Browne Room

Fuchsia Circle
Meeting at Member's House

Garden Club Reps Meeting
Tue 4 Mar 10am PC Browne Room

Orchid Society
Tue 4 Mar 6.30pm Watling Room

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

*Tuesday 4 February 7pm
Wednesday 5 February 9.45am*

LOCAL EVENTS

Waitangi Day Okains Bay
Thu 6 Feb 10am. Adults \$10, Child \$2

On Waitangi Day the entire Okains Bay village becomes the centre of celebrations with hangi, speeches, the museum's waka being paddled up the river, and many other traditional games and activities. *The programme begins at 10am when the Waka come up the river and runs through to 5pm when the museum closes.*

HAGLEY CENTRE PARKING

The cricket oval development has reduced our number of parks. There is no parking possible at the rear of the building. We will reserve 35 spaces at the front of the building for Wednesday's All About Gardening. Car pooling is highly recommended!

Plant of the Month

Blueberry 'Swirl' Exclusive for CHS Members

Blueberries are considered a wonder food and are a fantastic addition to the garden, whether grown as a specimen plant in a container, or as a low hedge. New for 2014 and exclusive to Oderings is Blueberry 'Swirl'. This delicious treat is a busy 'rabbit eye' type and is perfect for home gardens throughout the country. 'Swirl' is a self-fertile, but cross-pollination of two different varieties with improved fruit quality and higher yields. Heavy cropping and disease resistant, it is very tasty in muffins, pies, desserts, smoothies - or simply eaten straight from the bush. 'Swirl' is not available until mid to late February and is only being released to CHS Members and Ellerslie ticket holders. To pre-order please email: pamela@oderings.co.nz



Plot to Pot

Strawberry Tarts with Mascarpone Cream

Ingredients

- 1 packet of pie pastry
- 1 punnet of strawberries
- 250gm mascarpone
- 100ml very cold cream
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 80 gm brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons of icing sugar

Preheat the oven to 170C. Cut the pastry to fit one large pie dish or 4 individual dishes and line the dishes having at least 1 cm sides. Prick the pastry with a fork and cook blind for about 20 minutes just until the pastry is pale gold. Leave to cool.

Add the vanilla to the mascarpone. Mix in the brown sugar with a fork until it is well blended. Whip the cream and fold gently into the mascarpone mixture.

Just before serving, put the cream mixture into the cases, arrange the strawberries on the top and dust with icing sugar. Garnish with fresh mint.

NB You may want to halve large strawberries.

Top Tasks February

Michael Coulter

Flower Garden - Support Dahlias and Chrysanthemums and other taller growing plants before they get too tall and stems become crooked.

Remove spent flowers to encourage continuous flowering of annuals and perennials.

Look for rust and black spot on roses and mildew on other plants and take preventative measures to stop the spread of diseases.

Keep up the water on the plants to avoid stress keeping them growing to give continuous flowering. Keep weeding and do not allow weeds to seed remember one year's seeding is seven year's weeding!!

Fruit & Vegetable Garden - Keep the water going! Plant leeks and other winter crops in

succession as this will give a more continuous supply over the winter.

Harvest beans and broccoli and other greens as they are ready to encourage more production.

Remove lower leaves on tomatoes to let in more light to help ripen fruit. Look out for the potato tomato psyllid on those plants and spray if seen.

Pick fruit as soon as it is ready this helps to beat the birds and stop any spread of bad rot.

Summer prune grapes, apples, pears and stone fruit after it is harvested. Spray stone fruit after harvest for leaf curl using a copper spray.

Water pip fruit trees to help fruit to develop and look out for spider mite and spray as needed.

Tour with us

Ellerslie Garden Tours 26 Feb - 2 March
Tickets can be purchased from the CHS office or online at www.chsgardens.co.nz

DON'T MISS OUT!

Summer Gardens

Look, Learn & Enjoy **Day Tour**

10am - 3pm Thursday 20 February 2014

Dalkeith, Broadfields and The Grange; concluding with a visit to Texture Plants.

\$20pp Car Pool \$3 **Bookings open**

West Coast Wonders & Beyond

14 - 16 March 2014 **Short Break**

A true West Coast experience with guide Patsy Tainui. **Brochure available now**

Misty Mountains & Doubtful Sound Cruise

7 - 13 April 2014 **Filling Fast, brochure available now**

Visit our website for full listings or contact tours@chsgardens.co.nz

Quiz Time

What is the Maori name for these New Zealand trees?

1. White Pine
2. Red Pine
3. Lancewood
4. Cabbage
5. NZ Xmas Tree

Answers online www.chsgardens.co.nz

MISTY MOUNTAINS & Doubtful Sound Cruise

7 Day Tour
7 - 13 April 2014

An unforgettable night cruising the fiord on the Fiordland Navigator overnight cruise with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

WEST COAST WONDERS & Beyond

3 Day Tour
14 - 16 March 2014

Treetops Lake Mahināpua

Experience life with the birds high in the ancient Rimu and Kamahi tree canopy.

All About Gardening

7pm - 9pm Tue 4 February

9.45am - 11.45am Wed 5 February

Guest Circle

A member of the Begonia Circle tells how they get these glorious blooms

Love our Garden City

What not to miss in this month's 25th anniversary of the Festival of Flowers

Parks and Gardens of England

Thomas Looij, garden designer and well known and respected former club and board member of CHS, takes us to Kew, Wakehurst and Sheffield

CHS Centre, South Hagley Park

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

Tea, coffee and refreshments included

Top 5 Perennials

1. Hosta varieties
2. Campanula Persicifolia and Mystic Bells
3. Heuchera Marmalade and Green Spice
4. Geranium Reiter and Phaeum
5. Ligularia Britt Marie Crawford

As voted by CHS Members who attended Chelsea Chop Look & Learn day tour, November 2013