A Contemporary Gentleman & A Grand garden

There is so much to see and learn in this garden. Gardener, Mark Chandler was completing a retaining wall and steps down into the lower valley where a sculpture by Auckland artist Virginia King can be viewed. Another feature was a chequerboard pattern of natives (corokia and coprosma varieties), shaped to give a carpet effect. Now to the Park! After six years it is taking on a ‘contemporary’ feel with large swathes of hardy New Zealand native shrubs including Olearia paniculata, Muhlenbeckia astoni, Chinachloa flavescens, Carex bucharlatsi and other grasses. The secret with the use of these species in this situation is to shape and trim. The terracing features were created an amphitheatre, setting the scene for even more spectacular artworks.

At the end of the Park a dynamic new Neil Dawson (‘Chalice’, ‘Ferns’, Civic Square Wellington) artwork is about to be installed. This joins another new and bold installation with Timaru bluestone by Doug Neil. The sculptures are a true passion of Sir Miles and his excitement over the new embellishments are evident.

At the conclusion of the visit we came across a beautiful wall inscription in Latin, translated as, “those who plant a garden plant happiness”.

While Sir Miles claims “there is still so much yet to do”, it is evident this gracious garden brings its founder (and surely all who visit) much happiness indeed.

Sir Miles is pleased to welcome CHS Members to Ohinetahi this year on Tuesday 25 November. This exclusive day trip includes a tour of the house and garden, morning tea and a private bus. Bookings are open now $65 per person

QUIZ TIME JUST PASSING
answers: www.chsgardens.co.nz

TOURS

AUTUMN SHOW 2015
Celebrating your harvest
With the Chrysanthemum Circle - a massive pumpkin display and competition for a grand producer, and those who are just kids at heart! Watch this space and keep a listen out for updates from Michael Coulter.

STRAWBERRIES
Oderings are proud to offer you the commercial strawberry variety for 2014 called Aromas. This strawberry offers consistently large to very large fruit which is not with pale flesh. It has a great flavour with a firm texture. Beat of all it is heavy yielding, and is especially suited to the Christchurch climate.

ART IN A GARDEN
With Morning Tea & Gourmet Lunch
Friday 31 October: 9am - 5.30pm Book now: $90/$90 (BYO Lunch)
Art in a Garden is an annual exhibition of New Zealand created art work. Considered the best indoor/outdoor exhibition of its kind in the South Island, “Flaxmere” garden provides an elegant setting for established and emerging artists to display and sell their work. Sculptures sit with pride amidst trees, lawns, ponds and rose gardens while paintings, glassware, jewellery and pottery are exhibited in the restored farm barn gallery.

LOOK & LEARN TOUR
The Iris Garden & Devonshire Tea
Wednesday 12 November 10am Book now: $20, $5 car pool

SUMMER TOUR
A Day on the Peninsula
Tuesday 27 January 2015
Hinewai Reserve & Fisherman’s Bay Book now: $85 (BYO Lunch) includes: coach transport, garden entry and afternoon tea

IN THE PLANNING
Celebrating your harvest with Cameron Firth
Seddon to Blenheim
Tuesday 20 October 10am Book now: $75 including morning tea and coach transport
Recognized as one of the best gardens in New Zealand, Ohinetahi has a strong relationship of mixed natives and exotics needed to retain in our new city; a blend of both to maintain a balance, bringing back birds and bees while keeping Christchurch as The Garden City.

All About Gardening

November 2014

All About Gardening

November 2014

Ohinetahi Revisited those who plant a garden plant happiness

An early Spring walk around Ohinetahi with iconic Canterbury architect, Sir Miles Warren gave us a sneak preview of Winter projects completed, and the chance to hear about what’s in store for Summer. The surplus Charteris Bay sandstone from the original homestead has been an inspiration to Sir Miles in the development of the Garden and in particular the Park, for terracing and setting the scene for even more fabulous art installations.

We enjoyed magnificent views of Ohinetahi and its stunning sea backdrop, both the house and garden were impressive, with flowering camellias, rhododendrons and budding trees full of Spring promise. Of note was the Winter maintenance of pruning. Hedges and topiary were immaculate, kept razor sharp and straight by builder/gardener, Ross Brooker. The herbaceous border has been refreshed and simplified, but is still dramatic with mass plantings. In this generous garden planting is often in large groups, for example Begonia cordifolia, with large leaves and masses pink flowers. When the flowers are finished the leaves make a statement for the rest of the season - right plant, right place.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Recently our Ramblers walk took us along River Road and Banks Avenue. We were all shocked by the devastation that is so obvious there. In the city all is a gray wasteland, here this area is still green and although so many houses are gone, many of the gardens, trees and shrubs remain. Dianna Madgin’s isolated house still stands, with a notice telling you there is a Heritage Garden here among the weeds. What struck me most was the happy relationship of mixed natives and exotics growing side by side. This is what our council needs to retain in our new city; a blend of both to maintain a balance, bringing back birds and bees while keeping Christchurch as The Garden City.

Happy gardening...Elizabeth
In the August CHS News, I made mention of the various trophies held at the daffodil and chrysanthemum shows and the love for these flowers. As flowering shrubs finish flowering now is also a good time to treat for bulb fly now.

**Flower Garden**

As with the daffodil, there are other chrysanthemum trophies and other growers and exhibitors too numerous to mention here. Viewed as a whole, this trophy collection is a record of the persistence, sustained interest and strong competition, often spanning many years that existed and continue to exist, among our various growers and exhibitors. These efforts have resulted in numerous outstanding exhibits and displays, bringing not only great satisfaction to the exhibitors, but also immense pleasure to the wider membership and other visitors seeing the Society’s shows.

**Lawns**

Immediately, during October, assistance is needed from able bodied people to affix trail markers to the new path. Initially the path is formed out of gravel laid on the soil and need to be in place by launch date but form part of the trails natural enhancement over time.

**Workshop**

Flax Weaving with Daphne O’Connell

**Special Skills Workshop**

Decorating The Christmas Table

Demonstration & Workshop with Ray King & Freda Yung

Workshop A: Sat 29 Nov, 10am – 12pm

Workshop B: Wed 29 Oct, 7.30pm

Ticket: £20

Tickets: www.chsgardens.co.nz

**Special Skills Workshop**

Flax Weaving with Daphne O’Connell

**New a regular monthly event!**

Tickets: £20

Tickets: £5

**Income & Expenditure**

At the end of the month warm loving crops may be planted (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans, sweetcorn, etc.) Transplant early raised seedlings of the warmer loving plants to give some early harvest (do not plant too many as these early plantings often do not crop as well as later plantings do).

**Workshop**

Rapid growth is now on so the grass needs to be cut at least every week and sometimes more. Remember to only cut about 1/3 of the leaf area of the plants. Do not cut the lawns too low as this encourages weeds and moss to grow in the lawn.

You can now treat the lawn for broadleaf weeds but do not compost or use the clippings around the garden.

With rapid growth grass will need to be fed to keep it nice and green through the summer. So feed now and water in.

Keep the water up on the grass if the weather is dry. It’s better not to let the grass get too dry before watering to keep it green.

**Flower Garden**

Keep the water up on the daffodils so that they grow well to produce next season’s flowers, also treat for bulb fly now.

As flowering shrubs finish flowering now is the time to prune them to encourage growth for next season’s flowers.

Mull around shrubs to suppress the weeds and conserve moisture during the hotter summer. At the end of the month start planting the summer annuals, dahlias, chrysanthemums and other warmer loving perennials.

As shrubs and trees grow to they will benefit from having a light application of fertiliser. Watch out for signs of pest and disease on the new growth on plants especially roses, dahlias, chrysanthemums, fuchsias etc. and take control measures as needed.

Remember small seedling weeds are easier to eliminate so on fine warm days get the hoe out and go around the garden.

**Lawn**

Keep the water up on the grass if the weather is dry. It’s better not to let the grass get too dry before watering to keep it green.

**Flower & Veggie Garden**

Successive sowing of green leaf crops every 3 to 4 weeks will give a continuous supply throughout the Summer.

At the end of the month warm loving crops may be planted (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans, sweetcorn, etc.)

Transplant early raised seedlings of the warmer loving plants to give some early harvest (do not plant too many as these early plantings often do not crop as well as later plantings do).

Main crop onions can start to be planted now. Mould up the early potatoes as they emerge and watch out for late frosts.

Sow the last of the onions main crop and leeks. Do not spray fruit trees while they are in flower wait until petal drop is finished then spray (this is the time to get control of brown rot on stone fruit and leaf blight). Keep the water and fertiliser up on rhubarb and asparagus to get continuous supply.

**Flower Garden**

As flowering shrubs finish flowering now is also a good time to treat for bulb fly now.

**Workshop**

Flax Weaving with Daphne O’Connell

**New a regular monthly event!**

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