Soon after landing on Norfolk Island we were met by the President and members of the local garden club who put on the friendliest of greetings and a most welcome afternoon tea at the home of Jane Evans (head gardener, Government House). This relaxing time set the tone for our experiences for the remainder of our stay.

The focus of our trip was to view some of the Island’s best private gardens, with their many variations of sub-tropical plantings, beautiful trees and spectacular views. Those visits were mixed with excursions to buildings and places of the Island’s brutal past as a penal colony and of later years, including visits to Fletcher’s Fish Fry, the site of a mutiny staged by the crew of the HMS Bounty and their Tahitian wives. A highlight of the trip was a private visit to historic Government House, followed by a garden tour with both the President and members of the local garden club who put on the friendliest of greetings and a most welcome afternoon tea at the home of Jane Evans (head gardener, Government House). This relaxing time set the tone for our experiences for the remainder of our stay.

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Our evening entertainment included entertainment such as Island Fish Fry, Wonderland by Night, Mutiny on the Bounty Show, Night as a Convict and Fletcher’s Fate dinner – just to mention a few.

Our trip to Norfolk Island was everything the brochure said it would be; friendly resourceful people, wonderful scenery, beautiful gardens, interesting history and heaps of fun.

Gail Swiremen

Melbourne Flower Show, Mount Macedon, 5 Day Short Break

SHOW

MELBOURNE FLOWER

amazing vegetable garden (whose produce supports a local charity)

Government House, followed by a garden tour with both
gardeners. Manicured lawns, colourful herbaceous borders and an
amazing vegetable garden (whose produce supports a local charity)

Garden Trends

Is your outdoor and indoor space an extension of yourself? Find out about the latest garden trends inside.

Oderings School Gardens Show

Tony Kunowski, CHS Manager

In March next year the CHS will present the Oderings School Gardens Show involving 12 primary and intermediate schools. The introduction of the schools category to the 2014 Ellerslie International Flower Show was a huge success and given the loss of Ellerslie we want to maintain the momentum that this initiative has generated. We are pleased to have the support of Oderings Garden Centres as the naming rights sponsor with further support from Intelligro, Shrinkmaster, Rotary Club of Christchurch, Tui, Magic Moss, Weekend Gardener and Christchurch Star.

The schools will be required to prepare a brief to describe what their garden is intended to portray and they will be judged on four criteria – the wave factor, design & theme, educational elements and presentation. The show will be held over the three days 6-8 March in the Horticultural Centre and entry fee will be by gold coin donation. We want it to be a gala event so have arranged Jed’s Rollickin’ Gelato and The Brew Crew to be on site.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Beat your house with the crown?

1. Which tree gives myrrh?

2. Which tree gives frankincense?

3. Which tree gives frankincense?

4. Which tree gives frankincense?

5. Which tree gives frankincense?

6. Which tree gives frankincense?

7. Which tree gives frankincense?

8. Which tree gives frankincense?

9. Which tree gives frankincense?

10. Which tree gives frankincense?

QUIZ TIME

Christmas Knowledge!

Of all the trees in the wood which one bears the crown?

1. Which is the traditional Christmas tree?

2. Which tree gives frankincense?

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Spying the latest in Garden trends
Are you a bed-head, colour-freak or rebel?

US-based Garden Media has been producing garden trend reports for 14 years and the 2015 report makes interesting reading. Gardening was found to go hand-in-hand with a healthy lifestyle. “People see both outdoor and indoor spaces as extensions of themselves and are making conscious decisions to use plants and garden products as "tools" to increase their overall wellbeing, lead a sustainable lifestyle and make a positive impact on their communities and the planet”. Sounds very much like the trends observable right now in Christchurch, apart from the last!

The report identified nine trends summarised here:

- The new consumers – young men spend $100 more on garden plants and products than the average consumer
- Wellbeing from the outside in – people aren’t just gardening for beauty but to nourish their communities, the environment and their own wellbeing
- Colour pops – trending colour palettes – ranging from vintage and muted rustic to teal and pink – show off personality in flowers, plants and outdoor products
- “Garden-tainment” – the party is moving outside and demand for outdoor plants healthy.
- Bite-sized decadence – whether in a small space garden or on an apartment balcony, compact plants are packing a lot of punch with rich colours and textures
- Portable gardening – convenience and simplicity drive this trend which allows the “always-in-motion” generation to take gardening wherever they go
- Rebel Hoods – resident rebelling against planning rules and creating “agri-hoods” with urban chickens, bees and lawn-less landscapes
- Bed Head – purposely un-styled outdoor spaces reflects an “anything goes” attitude
- Smoke your garden – legalisation in around 50% of the US will increase the grow-your-own marijuana trend

More online: www.gardenmediagroup.com

Sharing our Knowledge
For this years A&P show the CHS invited members of the public to share a cuppa and a question with our best Garden Gurus.

Dave Adams, Carole Anderton, Michael Coulter, Freda Hunter, Alan Jolliffe, Athol McCully, Alan Patterson and Rachel Vogan fielded a range of gardening questions over the 3 days of the event.

The support team gave away complimentary passes to All About Gardening to promote this flagship event to the wider public.

Thanks must go to Michael Coulter for growing such a great range of perennials for our colourful display and to Dave Adams for the wonderful daffodils.

The event finished with an amazing sell-off of all the plants, there was not one left! Many thanks to all our members who dropped by for a chat during the show.

Bay King

Michael Coulter’s Top Tasks

Now is a very busy time in the garden. Plant growth is rapid and we need to keep on top of the many tasks that need to be done. The weather has been very changeable with a lot of wind. This means that we will have to keep up the watering as winds increase transpiration in the plants.

FLOWER GARDEN

Begonias, marigolds, petunias and all the other Summer bedding plants can now be planted.

Keep the water up on roses and watch out for pest and diseases. Spray as needed to keep plants healthy.

LAWNS

Keep the grass growing by regular feeding and watering – do not cut too low.

As it gets drier and warmer grass will want to flower and go to seed. If this starts cut the grass a little shorter to remove the flower stems then feed and water well.

Cut the grass every week. This keeps it tidy and does not produce too much in the way of clippings to get rid of.

FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow parsnips, plant leeks and keep a continuous planting of leafy veggies to give a good supply all the time.

Keep the water up so that plants make good growth to give the best crops. Tomatoes and beans need plenty of water.

Keep the weeds down to reduce plant competition so the crops can grow to their best.

Remove the laterals on tomatoes (best done in the morning when plants are cooler as they break off better then) and keep plants pest and disease free.

Spray applies for codling moth and black spot now and in January spray for spider mite to give good quality crop.

Harvest produce when it is ready to ensure you get the best from the garden, especially beans, zucchini, peas and runner beans as these are better consumed when they are tender.

Mould up potatoes and look out for the tomato potato psyllid which attacks the plant reducing the crop to useless. This pest attacks plants belonging to the potato, tomato and pepper group of plants. If seen (usually on the underside of the leaves) spray with an insecticide to treat.

A & P Show 2014

Entry is FREE and open to all!