STRAWBERRY & BEET SALAD

Ingredients:
- 5 small beets (raw, tops removed)
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds
- 100g feta
- 100ml balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds

Instructions:
1. Boil the beets until they are tender. Once cooked, remove from heat.
2. While the sunflower seeds are roasting, wash and cut your strawberries in quarters.
3. Mix the vinegar and honey in a bowl until they are combined.
4. Add the feta and roasted sunflower seeds to the salad.
5. Serve 4 as a side dish.

TOURS
Confirmed 2015 dates now out

TARANAKI EXTRAVAGANZA TOUR
6 Day Longer Break
7-13 November 2015
See rhododendrons at their best and explore this beautiful area of the North Island with a group of like-minded travellers.

TEMPORARY CENTRE CLOSURE
We wish to advise that due to the Cricket World Cup booking the Canterbury Horticulture Centre will be closed for the month of February. The CHS office will be functioning as normal and Tony and Liz will be in the office most days between hours 9am to 4pm. However, as security is extremely high gate passes for access to the building will only be issued to members of the staff.

IN THE PLANNING
Chiang Mai Flower Festival
Thailand
January 2016

PLOT TO POT
Strawberry & Beet Salad

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PREPARATIONS FOR FLOWER SHOW
All About Gardening
March 2015

IMPORTANT MESSAGE
Please note that both February and March All About Gardening sessions will be held at the new Visitor Centre in the Botanic Gardens.

IN THE PLANNING
February 2015

QUIZ TIME
What is the main food source for the larvae of these insects?
1. Monarch butterfly
2. Yellow Admiral butterfly
3. Magpie moth
4. White butterfly
5. Porina moth

The CHS gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution of its sponsors and supporters which are listed above. The sponsorship categories are as follows: Principal, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Supporter and will be populated as sponsors join the programme. Details of the programme may be found at www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship

To date we have received nine entries from the following schools: West Melton Primary, St Alban’s Catholic, Cathedral Grammar, Aidanfield Christian, Shirley Intermediate, Bishopdale, West Spreydon, and Bromley (2). Ideally we’d like a minimum of 10 schools so if any member can suggest another school even at this late stage we’ll follow it up with vigour.

Oderings School Gardens Show
6-8 March 2015

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The planning and organising of this inaugural event is being undertaken by the CHS Education Committee chaired by Ray King and is a real team effort involving Annette Hill (School Liaison), Dagg Gooke (Health & Safety), Allan Paterson (Logistics), Rachel Vogan (Convenor of Judges) and Faye Fyle (Catering). The judging criteria are: fourscore, Wow Factor (30%), Design & Theme (25%), Educational Elements & Age Appropriate Student Input (30%) and finally Construction, Presentation & Finishing (15%).

Each school will be required to produce a story board to describe their garden theme. This can be written, pictorial, photographic or some mix of these. A planting plan is also required so visitors can identify all the plants used in the exhibit.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Welcome to 2015.

The Board face many challenges this year as we strive to provide value and excellence in horticulture for our members. There are many hard decisions to be made for the future growth of our Society and we ask for whole-hearted support from you all as we face some very exciting changes, beginning with holding All About Gardening in the new Information Centre in the Botanic Gardens. The easier parking and the provision of transport from the old Tea Kiosk in the morning for those of you with mobility problems should make joining us much easier. We trust you will enjoy the change.

Our March meeting will also be at this venue as our Horticultural Team are hosting our Schools Garden Show in the Templin Hall the first week of March. Do come to see what our young people can produce... it will be an inspiration.

Cheers,
Elizabeth

If you wish to pay an account, please do so online listing the invoice number, send a cheque or telephone the office with your credit card details.

If you are anyone that wishes to discuss please telephone the office, if we are busy or out of the office and we don’t answer, please leave your name, number and a clear message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

tel: 366 6937 email: office@chsgardens.co.nz
**Trees for Bees**

Smart planting for healthy bees

**Why Are Bees Important?**

Imagine a world without strawberries, kiwifruit, apples, nuts, coffee, chocolate or even denim jeans! And that’s only the beginning.

One mouthful in three and nearly ¾ of the diversity of our daily food is directly attributed to bee pollination.

Billions of dollars in NZ export earnings depend on bee pollination. And so do many plants in your garden.

**What Is Happening To Our Bees?**

Honey bees all around the world are in decline because of Varroa mite infestations and other threats. Pesticide misuse is killing bees. Habitat degradation takes away flowers which supply threats. Pesticide misuse is killing bees.

**What Can You Do About It? Bee Friendly!**

Do not spray when plants are in flower or bees are present. Spray early morning or at sunset. Provide fresh pesticide-free drinking water for bees. Plant good nectar and pollen sources in your garden to nourish bees.

**Bee-Friendly Kitchen & Herb Plant Suggestions**

- Basil
- Chives
- Cucumber, melon
- Echinacea
- Pot marigold
- Sage
- Squash, pumpkin
- Sunflower
- Sweetcorn

**Trees, shrubs and climbers**

- Apple
- Bay laurel
- Kowhai
- Lavender
- Lemon, orange, grapefruit
- Pear
- Plum, peach
- Rosemary

Reproduced from Urban Trees for Bees, a joint project of the National Beekeepers’ Association and Trees for Bees NZ.

For more information visit: www.nba.org.nz or www.treesforbeeznz.org

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**Member of the Month**

**Amanda Clifford**

Where were you born and where did you spend most of your childhood?

I was born in Dallington, Christchurch and have lived in that area all my life apart from 3 years living in the UK.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

My grandparents and parents have always gardened. At primary school I enjoyed taking part in the gardening competitions that the Education Department ran through primary schools in the late 1970s.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

My interests are flowers and vegetables.

What’s your favourite plant and why?

Tulips and sweetpeas.

Why - Tulips - because they are a sign of the warmer weather and I love the colours and especially the parrot tulips. Sweetpeas for their fragrance and colours and they always grow and bloom for months.

**Member of the Month is a new component to the CHS newsletter introduced as an opportunity to get to know some of our newer members, as well as our existing members, a little better.**

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**CHS CIRCLES**

**New JUNIORS NEEDED!**

As older children move on we really need four new members for this year.

Parents or grandparents usually stay through the sessions and are valued as part of the interactive nature of the programme.

For more information contact Dave Adams on tel: 342-6236.

**CHS CIRCLES**

**Daffodil Circle**

Mon 9 Feb 7.30pm contact Dave Adams on tel: 342-6236 for venue details.

**Begonia Circle**

Sun 22 Feb All Day Annual Walkabout no monthly meeting

**Chrysanthemum Circle**

Mon 16 Feb 6pm 11 Ruakaka St, Hornby Pot luck dinner, plant viewing and advice

**Floral Art Circle**

Mon 9 Feb 6pm 11 Ruakaka St, Hornby

**Begonia Circle**

Sun 22 Feb All Day Annual Walkabout no monthly meeting

**CHS AFFILIATES**

**Garden Club Reifs Meeting**

Tue 2 Feb 1pm Onerahi St, Onehunga

**Orchid Society**

Sun 1 Feb 2pm Glass house visit Home of Joyce Yates, Halswell

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**ALL ABOUT GARDENING**

**Tue 3 Feb 7pm & Wed 4 Feb 9.45am**

Behind the Scenes in the Botanic Gardens

This session will be divided into two, with staff member Darren Yillet taking half the members on a conducted tour of the propagation area, while David Barwick will talk about his passion - the intriguing and floriferous herbaceous border. Then the two groups will interchange for the second half of the meeting.

**CHS RAMBLERS**

**Tue 10 Feb 9.45am Halswell Quarry**

Meet by old Caretakers Cottage

**Tue 24 Feb 9.45am The Goynes**

Meet in carpark by Bridge

**Tue 1 Mar 9.45am Carlets Reserve**

Park on Templerston Rd, Aldersfield

**UPDAdTE TIME for 2015:**

Walks start at 9.45am every second and fourth Tuesday each month. FREE

No walk if very wet.

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**Michael Coulter’s CotTasks**

February is one of the busy months of the gardeners’ year, during this time we are harvesting fruit and vegetables, weeding, watering, Summer pruning fruit trees, dead heading flowers and roses and getting the garden ready for the coming Winter. Tree ripened fruit is for me the real highlight at this time of the year and so far we have enjoyed strawberries, guineaberry and peaches. The vegetable garden is in full production with a big choice of produce available and to keep the quality up I have been giving plenty of water every two days or so as the weather is hot and dry and is predicted to remain like this for the next two to three months.

Keeping the lawns looking nice is a real challenge during Summer so I have let the back grass look after itself and kept the front nice by feeding and watering so that it complements the flowering plants in the surrounding borders.

**FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDEN**

After stone fruit is harvested prune them and get a spray on for the leaf curl. Give apples and pears plenty of water for fruit development and Summertime prune to let in more light on the fruit and to shape the tree.

Keep the water up on the vegetables so that they will grow quickly for the best quality.

Hoe the weeds when they are small in the morning to get the best control.

Keep regular plantings of green leafy veges for continuous supply.

Leeks, carrots, silver beet can be sown or planted now for Winter supply.

Tomatoes will need plenty of water, laterals and lower leaves removed to encourage ripening of fruit. Watch out for pests that attack the plants and spray if needed. Feed and water citrus now.

**LAWNS & FLOWER GARDEN**

Keep up the water and feed on the lawns and do not cut too low.

Dead head spent flowers on the annuals, perennial, dahlias and roses to encourage more flowers.

Deep water garden so that plants do not get too stressed in the heat.

Spray plants for thrips and spider mites now to avoid damage to leaves.

Treat grass for grub grubs if it is a problem.

Trees and shrubs can be pruned to remove any unwanted growth. Keep the hoe active so that weeds are well controlled (best done in the morning to let the hot sun kill the weeds).

Do preventative sprays on the fruit trees so that pests and diseases are controlled before they can damage the crop.

Strawberries and other soft fruits will start to come into season from now on so keep up the water and liquid feeds to get the best results.

Mould up potatoes and look out for the potato psyllid on the underside of the leaves and spray for them especially on main crop potatoes.