



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 211 March 2015

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Cathedral Grammar's year 8 girls move their plants from the nursery in readiness for the Oderings School Gardens Show

Bee friendly! As the media bombards us with doom and gloom from the world of agriculture, the pupils of Cathedral Grammar have opted for a message of hope for their Oderings Schools' Garden Show plot.

Visit the show to discover!

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

April 2015

Tuesday 7 April 7pm - 9pm

Wednesday 8 April 9.45am - 11.45am

It's Harvest Time. Rachel Vogan, Community Gardens Coordinator for the Wai-Ora Trust tells us about the trust, their gardens, the workers, the programme and shows us some of their stunning produce.

Orchids - on show in the CHS Combined Autumn Show. Elegant and exotic, orchids are much admired but often perceived as "awkward to grow." Lesley Newton of the Canterbury Orchid Society discusses some of the many varieties of these beautiful and fascinating plants and offers tips and advice on how to grow and care for orchids at home.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please note that the **March** All About Gardening sessions will be held at the ilex Visitor Centre in the Botanic Gardens. In the morning session the electric shuttle will be operating to deliver members from the bridge opposite the Tea Kiosk to the Visitor Centre between 9am and 9.30am, and returning to the bridge from 11.45am to 12.00pm.

Oderings School Gardens Show

Fri 6, Sat 7 & Sun 8 March 2015

As the Oderings School Gardens Show rapidly approaches we can feel the keen anticipation emanating from the participating schools with themes such as "bee-friendly" and "coastal gardens" being revealed. On Thursday 5th March the judging of the gardens will take place and the CHS will later host an awards function attended by the pupils, sponsors, media and invited guests. Over the 3 day show the public can vote for the best garden and the schools can judge each other but not themselves of course. Results will be posted each day on our Facebook page.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Horticulture Centre Update

The Board is looking to move the Society into premises where we can have more emphasis on horticulture. After receiving several offers for the purchase of our building, we have accepted an offer from a party we expect to satisfy the requirements of the Reserves Act. We must now await the due diligence process and confirmation from the City Council's legal team that the current lease can be re-assigned to the would-be purchaser. This will take a few months and so it will be "business as usual" until at least the end of July.

Finally can I implore you all to tell family, friends and even enemies to come to the Oderings School Gardens Show which promises to be an extravaganza of colour and youthful exuberance and creativity!

Working with Wai-Ora

Helping people grow

The central ethos underpinning the CHS's strategic direction is that of sharing our horticultural knowledge and the sheer joy of growing one's own fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Right now there's a strong drive within Canterbury towards community-based, edible gardens and we are seeking opportunities to collaborate with such groups and maybe get involved in joint projects.

The Wai-Ora Trust is one such organisation and is based on a 7 hectare site in Harewood. It hosted a community lunch recently to promote awareness of its activities. General Manager Ricky

Ehau (pictured right) explained that "the trust's aims are 'helping people grow', by promoting and supporting projects, programmes and community-based businesses that will develop people, our environment and our community." Around 90% of the trust's income comes from its charitable company Wai-Ora Forest Landscapes.

CHS Board member and "Happy Gardener" Rachel Vogan signed up to help the community gardens for the season, as a crop mentor, support person and jack of all trades. "And what a joy it has been" said Rachel.



ALL ABOUT GARDENING MARCH

Tue 3 March 7pm & Wed 4 March 9.45am

Behind the Scenes in the Botanic Gardens. This month we hear about The Curators House Gardens which are overflowing with scrumptious fruit, herbs and vegetables all ready to be picked and used by the clever chefs at the Curator's House restaurant, plus Susan Sanders will talk about Dahlias.

CHS CIRCLES

Daffodil Circle

Mon 9 Mar 7.30pm Watling Room

Begonia Circle

Wed 11 Mar 7.30pm Watling Room

Chrysanthemum Circle

Mon 16 Mar 7.30pm Watling Room

Floral Art Circle

Thu 19 Mar 1.30pm Watling Room

Fruit & Vegetable Circle

Wed 25 Mar 7.30pm Watling Room

CHS AFFILIATES

Garden Club Reps Meeting

Tue 3 Mar 10am Oderings, Stourbridge St

Orchid Society

Mon 2 Mar 7pm Watling Room

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Camellia Fairy Blush



This beauty is called C. 'Fairy Blush'. It was bred by Mark Jury and is a seedling of the camellia species C. lutchuensis.

Camellia 'Fairy Blush' is classed as a miniature camellia. The flowers are light apple blossom pink fading to a paler pink in the centre and wonderfully perfumed. These masses of flowers are borne all along the branches from tip to toe and are a great source of nectar for birds, especially Tui and Wax Eye in the winter months. Bees are also attracted in good numbers and there is a lot of research being done at present on the benefits of Camellia nectar for bees over the winter period.

Having small leaves and small flowers, it lends itself to being kept trimmed as a short hedge at 1m or left to grow to its natural height of around 2.5m to 3m if desired. You could grow it as a bush or trim it as a ball shape or pillar, and although 'Fairy Blush' is a good garden plant it is also a very good container plant.

Purchase at any Oderings store or online at www.oderings.co.nz

FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA

*Margaret Watling Demonstration
20 May 2015*



Floral designs for that special occasion. Created for you by international designers, Gislinde Folkerts & Annette Waller.

“I have never worked on something that is as rewarding as this, meeting people from all walks of life who have come together to grow food, learn new skills and feel like they are part of something.” *Rachel Vogan*



Community or family groups can sign up for a whole or half plot for the growing season, which starts in September and finishes at the end of May. There is a token fee of \$80 and all the tools, wheelbarrows, copious amounts of worm tea, compost and resources are provided as are fresh seedlings which are generously donated by Zealandia

Horticulture. Even though the season is soon to end, people can still get involved by contacting Rachel tel: (03) 329 6323, 021 632 342 or email: rachelvogan@gmail.com

Images: Cr Ali Jones & CHS Board Member, Rachel Vogan go undercover at Wai-Ora

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thu 19 Mar 3:45 - 5pm Watling Room

New Juniors Needed!

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

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

For more information contact Dave Adams on tel: 342 6236

CHS RAMBLERS

Tue 10 Mar 9.45am Curletts Reserve Park on Templetons Rd, Aidenfield

Tue 24 Mar 9.45am Bexley Wetlands Park on Bridge St near the bridge (sea side)

UPDATED TIME for 2015

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

No walk if very wet.

2015 GARAGE SALE

Saturday 11 April 8.30am -12.30pm

The annual Garage Sale will be held in the Horticultural Centre on April 11.

Contributions from members are sought in the usual categories of Garden Products & Plants, White Elephant, Clothing, Books, Toys, Manchester and Jewellery. These can be dropped off at the Horticultural Centre between 9am and 4pm from Monday to Friday **after 20th March.**

We look forward to another great sale!

Michael Coulter's Top Tasks



We are now getting well through Summer and have had to put up with some challenges, hot and dry weather especially, which has effected how the garden has responded.

In the vegetable garden regular deep watering has given me abundant crops of high quality produce but I have needed extra fertilisers to compensate for nutrient loss caused by the higher watering.

Fruit trees have not been as troubled by fungus diseases so far but as the weather cools and we get morning dews this will change, so some preventative sprays will be needed (note the withholding period as you get near the harvest time).

I have also noted that there are more fungal infections in the lawns, especially where watering has been used to keep them green. You can spray or cut back on the water or wait until the cooler weather when the grass will recover. The Summer flowers have done really well with the fine weather and have put on some fabulous displays. Keep dead-heading the spent flowers and they will continue to give plenty of colour.

Tour Report

Hinewai Reserve & Fisherman's Bay

A colourful group of 23 enjoyed this January day trip to the beautiful Hinewai Reserve and Fisherman's Bay Garden. At Hinewai, Hugh Wilson, botanist and manager gave a most interesting talk, and I shall never look at gorse as a curse again.

Hugh says "The trick is that gorse is used to re-grow natives. You fight gorse by leaving it alone." The gorse shelters native plants as they grow and once the natives form a canopy, the gorse, which needs full light to survive, dies underneath. It is just common sense to him!

In the afternoon we visited Jill & Richard Simpson's Fisherman's Bay Garden which is a haven in the rugged and dramatic landscape of Banks Peninsula coastline. The structure and texture of New Zealand Native Plants combined with a diverse array of non-native plants are used to create a truly NZ ambience

Winding paths and a varied landscape have inspired a garden with many parts including a traditional flower border, herb garden, farm garden, fern garden, shaded stream side valley, pond and a wild exposed rock garden. Jill is also a collector of native hebes, for which she has over 150 species and cultivars.

Gail Scrivener, *Tour Manager*



Images: Clockwise from top:

1: Gail, Grant & Victoria enjoy the peace at the summit of the Hinewai Reserve waterfall walk. 2: Fisherman's Bay beautiful natives, 3: Shirley & Helen in the shade of Fisherman's Bay garden.

AUTUMN SHOW 2015

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 April 2015

Join the Chrysanthemum Circle, Alpine Society, Orchid Society and participating Garden Clubs for a wonderful display of blooms, pumpkins and gourds!

Vegetable categories include: Heaviest, Ugliest, Prettiest Decorated, Best Sculptured or Best Presented Gourd & Pumpkin Pair?

Open: **Saturday 1pm - 4.30pm**
Sunday 10am - 4pm FREE ENTRY

INTERACTIVE HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS

Composting with Terry Windle

Saturday 25 April 2pm - 3.30pm
Sunday 26 April 1pm - 2.30pm

Templin Hall, CHS Centre

These workshops will be run in conjunction with the Autumn Show in the dock area of the CHS Centre.

Members: \$5, non-members: \$10
Tickets: www.chsgardens.co.nz

2015 SPEAKER SERIES

The Winter Speaker Series returns with Our Living Landscape - "Canterbury & Further South"

Aaron Russ, Expedition Leader with Heritage Expeditions kicks off the series with: **Subantarctic Mega Herbs vs Alpine Flora**

Thursday 14 May 7.30pm
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

Members \$10, Non-members \$15
Tickets: www.chsgardens.co.nz

FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDEN

Harvest when the produce is at its best, this will help give a continuous supply.

Keep up the water and try to have the leaves dry by night time.

Remove the plants as soon as the crop has finished, this helps to rest the ground before replanting and also helps to stop pests and diseases to carry over.

Summer prune fruit trees to let in more light and to encourage next seasons fruiting (stone fruit should be pruned after fruit has been picked)

Get the sprays on the stone fruit trees after harvest to control leaf curl and brown rot infection next season.

Pick apples and pears as soon as they are ready but before they get over ripe so that they will keep better.

Get the winter crops planted as space allows to give the plants time to get established before the cooler weather arrives.

Remove the lower leaves on tomatoes to let in more light to help ripen the fruit.

FLOWER GARDEN & LAWNS

Dead head and trim back annuals and perennials to keep them neat and flowering.

Water in the mornings so that plants are dry by night time.

Water and mulch shrubs so that they are not stressed by the hot dry weather.

Lawns can be given fertilisers, and sprayed for weeds, if they are growing and not too dry and stressed.

Spray rhododendrons and other shrubs for thrips which damage the leaves.



TOURS

Discover garden grandeur in Taranaki

TARANAKI SPECTACULAR TOUR

7 – 12th November 2015

A showcase of outstanding gardens and other must do experiences of the Taranaki region.

This province is the garden grandeur of New Zealand, blessed with high sunshine hours and plenty of rain. Taranaki has rich volcanic soils and subtropical conditions conducive to the cultivation of a huge variety of gorgeous plants.

The itinerary includes a feast of gardens (large and small) scenic attractions, bush and coastal walks, garden centre visits and free time for retail therapy.

As well as Pukeiti (NZ's premier Rhododendron Park) we visit Tupare House & Garden, Pukekura Park, Te Kukumara, Boxwood and many more.

Not to be missed is the Puke Ariki Museum to discover treasures and stories of Taranaki and its people, Tawhiti Museum, Taranaki's premier heritage attraction and the Govett-Brewster Contemporary Art Gallery. **Brochure & Costs mid March**

For your brochure and bookings please contact the CHS Office
tel: 366 6937 or email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

IN THE PLANNING

Chiang Mai Flower Festival
Thailand 29 January - 10 February 2016

SUMMER GARDENS WALKABOUT

A beautiful sunny morning greeted members on their walkabout to the award winning gardens from the CHS 2015 Summer Garden Awards in Northwood.

Trees and shrubs were a foil for the flowers. Dominant in the borders was tuberous and fibrous begonias, several of the newer varieties of petunias plus marigolds and salvia to name a few. The single fuchsia was often seen dripping over the top of the lower growing flowers. The pendulous Amaranthus was popular with members and is easy to grow from seed. The colour schemes were vibrant.

Below are some of the garden owners tips they shared with us.

OWNERS TIPS

To protect the blooms water at the base of plants (not overhead watering).

Tuberous begonias – when the season is finished, lift the tubers, label the colour, dry and then store in a black rubbish bag in the garage over winter. In September bring them into the light and pot up ready for the new season.

Pipe cleaners make a cheap twistie tie on annuals.

To deter cats from digging in your garden a gadget called Cat Stop is available, this runs by battery, when a cat approaches a high pitch sound scares the cat away. This was seen in several gardens.

Think Spring now and plan your planting. Also a good idea note any plants you wish to move in the Winter and mark according.

When dead-heading flowers. Don't just pull the spent petals etc, snip off the stalk back to the stem of the plant. Otherwise the plant will put its energy into producing seed pods instead of producing more flowers.

Thinning out crossing branches in trees and shrubs will reduce the size, and also keeps in scale with the space.

Freda Hunter

WOW WORLD OF WEARABLE ARTS



Wellington
2-4 October 2015

Includes a visit to Ruth Pretty's garden with gourmet lunch, Zelandia, Botanic Gardens & much more!

Look & Learn
April - December 2015

A range of affordable day tours around Canterbury

Norfolk Island - A repeat of this wonderful tour!
November 2015 - details confirmed next month



Janet & Brian Lovelock's vibrant garden won Premier Garden Award



Member of the Month

Bob Henderson



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

Born in Greymouth grew up in Blaketown by the sea.

Where do you live now and with whom?

In Bishopdale with my wife Marilyn.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

My Father always had a big garden and two glasshouses. I always helped him especially in the glasshouses.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

My own garden and glasshouse, the Horticultural Society and the Alhambra Gardens.

What's your favourite plant and why?

Kowhai tree, the flowers are fantastic in the Spring time

What's been your most challenging and/or rewarding gardening project ?

Establishing the gardens in the three homes we have owned, particularly the property we are living in now on a smaller section

When did you join the CHS and why?

Merilyn and I joined in 2004, to meet other gardening enthusiasts and gain tips and information on gardening.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

To be able to move to another complex possibly in the Botanical gardens or near the Avon River. To attract younger people and children to Horticultural Society.

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.

GREEN BEANS WITH OLIVES & GARLIC

Married perfectly with salty olives, pungent garlic & zingy lemon

Ingredients

500g green beans, trimmed
2 tbsp olive oil
2 cloves garlic, crushed
finely grated zest and juice of ½ a lemon
2-3 tbsp finely chopped kalamata olives

Method

Drop beans into boiling water and cook 3 minutes. Refresh under cold water and drain without shaking off all the water (you want them wet so they cook evenly later).

Heat olive oil in a frypan and gently fry garlic, lemon zest and a little salt for one minute without browning. Add olives and beans and cook over a medium-low heat until warmed through (1-2 minutes). If they dry out and start to brown, add a little water. Transfer to a serving plate, season to taste with salt and ground black pepper and drizzle with lemon juice to serve.

Photo: Annabel Langbein Media.

For more great Annabel Langbein recipes see annabel-langbein.com

QUIZ TIME



Name two vegetable relatives of the native poroporo?



What is the common name for raoulia mammilaris?



Which medicinal native plant has the same name as a North Canterbury town?



To which common garden plant is the Chatham Island myosotidium referred?



What kind of tree is Tane Mahuta?

Answers:

www.chsgardens.co.nz



Weekend Gardener



ODERINGS GARDEN CENTRES

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*