



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 216 August 2015

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From the Mountains to the Sea

We hope some of you got along to hear Sir Tim Smit talk about this exciting new project last month. Based on the successful UK Eden Project *From the Mountains to the Sea Ki Uta Ki Tai* will tell the story of water through nature, culture and science.

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

August 2015

Located at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre

Tue 4 August 7pm & Wed 5 August 9.45am

Avon-Ōtākaro Network Progress Update

The vision of the Avon-Ōtākaro Network is to promote the future use of the Ōtākaro/Avon River and the surrounding red zone lands as an ecological and recreational reserve for the community. In doing so they aim to create a place of hope and inspiration for the people of Christchurch by restoring health and vitality to our river and its lands.

Gardening in Hotter Climates

North Canterbury landscape gardener, rural development specialist and international tour guide Sue Verrall has spent many years planning and managing gardens in Tanzania and other parts of East Africa. She takes us on a tour of some her favourite gardens and discusses the challenges of gardening in hotter climates.

Members: \$5.00 non-members: \$10.00

Tea, coffee and refreshments included

A different kind of Eden

Sir Tim's vision for Christchurch

Most of you will have heard of the Eden Project which opened in Cornwall, UK in 2000. Many of you will have been lucky enough to have visited it. This was the concept of the charismatic Sir Tim Smit, to promote an educational and eco tourist attraction in an area struggling to deal with a falling economy.

This has been an enormous success and one which Sir Tim is hoping to repeat, albeit in a different way in Christchurch. During his visit here last month Sir Tim promoted the idea of a smaller, different Eden Garden being built here in the Quake destroyed 16 hectare block of land we call the Avon Loop.

His aim, along with the locals who have spent several years working on this concept, is to resurrect a desolated area into a place of joy and beauty while providing the Garden City with a special place for locals and tourists to visit.

The Ki Uta Ki Tai project has the potential to make Christchurch a major destination for international tourists. The project would showcase New Zealand's unique environment and demonstrate our community's commitment to regeneration and sustainability

We need to have a point of difference to encourage tourists to return and in my view this will tick all the boxes. Yes it will cost to visit but so do all the better tourist attractions around the world and the benefits to our city must be a major consideration for this project to proceed.

M J Barnett Memorial Lecture

Managing Water Run-off in an Urban Environment



On Thursday 13 August Professor Jenny Webster-Brown will conclude the 2015 Our Living Landscape Winter Speaker Series - Canterbury & Further South.

Jenny holds a BSc (Hons) in Geology and Chemistry and a PhD in Geochemistry. She is the Director of the Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management operating from both the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University.

Jenny's talk will discuss how our everyday activities affect urban waterways, creating contaminated waters, extreme flow events and poor habitats for life. It will consider how we can minimise, and in some cases even eliminate, these effects by making better decisions about our domestic water use and how we treat and dispose of common chemicals used around the home. As a keen gardener, Jenny will include options for minimising water use and run-off contamination from gardens. There will also be a brief review of improvements proposed for the management of stormwater run-off and urban waterways in Christchurch city.

The Winter Speaker Series talks start at 7pm in the PC Browne Room at the CHS Centre, 57 Riccarton Ave, South Hagley Park. Light refreshments will be served.

ALL ABOUT GARDENING *September*

Tue 1 Sep 7pm & Wed 2 Sep 9.45am

Plumcots, Pluots and Apriums?

Richard Smith shares his knowledge of plumcots and the ins and outs of growing these delicious fruits in Canterbury.

Weed News Manfred von Tippelskirch, ECan Biosecurity Officer discusses the Regional Pest Management Strategy review and the latest weed issues in Canterbury.

CHS CIRCLES

Daffodil Circle

Mon 10 August 7.30pm Watling Room

Chrysanthemum Circle

Mon 17 August 7.30pm Watling Room

Floral Art Circle

Thu 20 August 1.30pm Watling Room

Fruit & Vegetable Circle

Wed 26 August 7.30pm Watling Room

CHS AFFILIATES

Orchid Society

Mon 3 August 7pm Watling Room

Garden Club Reps Meeting

Tue 4 August 10am PC Browne Room

AGM

The CHS Annual General Meeting is on **Thursday 10 September at 7.30pm**. Nominations for members of the Board are being called for. *Nomination forms are available from the office and online.*

PLANT OF THE MONTH *Fruit & Nut Tree Selection*

Plant of the month has to be the fruit and nut tree selection which are arriving in Oderings stores daily. This selection includes almonds, apples, apricots, cherries, nashi, figs, nectarine, peaches, pears, plums, plumcot, prune plums and quince.

When selecting a fruit tree my advice is to get something a little different. Why you ask? Simple, at supermarkets or fruit and veggie shops you can often purchase the old favourites like royal gala apples, black doris plums or beurre bosc pears, but what about choosing a heritage or different variety which you won't find in the shops? Heritage fruit trees have flavour galore and there is nothing quite like them and some obscure named apricot may actually be the better choice for your climate than an everyday known variety.

Come in and see us for a catalogue with what is available this season, or use the www.waimeanurseries.co.nz website to do some more research. We look forward to helping you achieve a garden full of taste sensations.

Oderings Garden Centres - www.oderings.co.nz

QUIZ TIME

Name a plant that has this animal or bird in its name

1. Lion 2. Bull 3. Monkey 4. Sheep 5. Cow

answers online: www.chsgardens.co.nz



SUBS

Subs are now due. Thank-you to everyone that has already paid. Receipts will only be issued on request. Can all cheques and correspondence please go to our PO box number - **PO Box 369, Christchurch 8014** not to our physical address at Hagley Ave.

Many thanks, CHS office staff.

Christchurch Eden Project gaining positive press

This area of the Avon Loop was chosen because it was traditionally a food bowl for the locally-based Maori which gives it greater significance, as food growing will be part of the Eden concept.

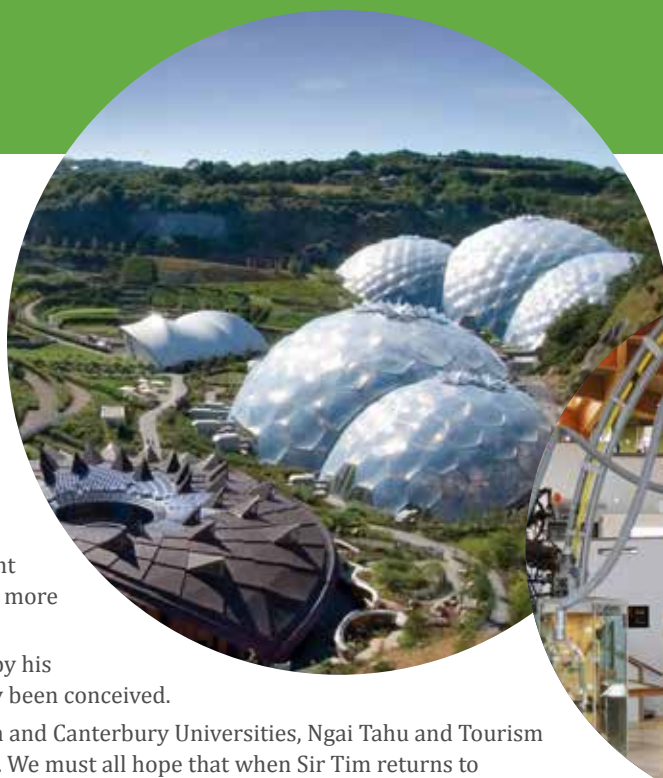
All the people who lost their homes in the Loop have been contacted for approval and permission has been granted by them for the remaining trees and shrubs on their properties to be incorporated into the proposed planning.

Focus for the Christchurch project will be on water and its journey from the mountains to the sea, which will be the theme incorporated into the project idea. With the Avon surrounding so much of the land here a more appropriate theme is hard to visualise.

Lincoln University have come up with the concept of a rainbow room... can you imagine how beautiful that will be? A wetland and Kahikatea forest will be brought back to the river side and a Sound Shell built to host Summer concerts with much more to come.

At the evening where Sir Tim was promoting this project I was inspired not only by his enthusiasm and conviction, but also by the wide variety of ideas that have already been conceived.

Thanks and congratulations must go to Martin Hadley and his Committee, Lincoln and Canterbury Universities, Ngai Tahu and Tourism New Zealand for the innovative work they have done to make this dream a reality. We must all hope that when Sir Tim returns to Cornwall his enthusiasm for a new project here in Christchurch will convince the Eden Trust to allow the Christchurch Eden to proceed.



JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thu 20 August 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 tel: 342 6236

CHS RAMBLERS

Avon River Walk
Tuesday 11 August

Meet in Armagh carpark in Hagley Park

Cashmere
Tuesday 25 August

Meet at Centaurus Park near
Ramahana Rd

UPDATED TIME for 2015

Walks start at **9.45am** every second
and fourth **Tuesday** each month.
FREE *No walk if very wet.*

WINTER SPEAKER SERIES - AUGUST

Prof Jenny Webster-Brown presents the
final lecture for the 2015 series with:
**Managing Water Run-off in an Urban
Environment**

Thursday 13 August 7.00pm
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

Members FREE Non-members \$10
Book online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

M J Barnett Memorial Lecture

MICHAEL COULTER'S *Top Tasks*

August in the garden is a month when we can start to think about Spring and the tasks to come. Although the days are noticeably getting longer there is still plenty of cold and frosty weather to come.

Many Winter tasks can be completed, like pruning and Winter spraying. Moving deciduous fruit trees and other trees and shrubs should be done by the end of the month.

As ground conditions improve soil can be dug over and compost dug in to prepare for planting and sowing in the vegetable garden. Lime and superphosphate may be applied to allow time for the soil to absorb it before planting and sowing in a few weeks time.

Spring bulbs will benefit from a dressing of a potash fertiliser to improve flowering and to strengthen stems. Watch for bud movement on the stone fruit in order to correctly time the copper spray to control leaf curl and brown rot.

As rose pruning is completed get the sprays on for pest and diseases before growth starts and give the first fertiliser dressing just before they start to grow.

Complete pruning of soft fruits. Hardwood cuttings of currants and gooseberries from prunings may still be taken. Strawberry plants may be planted in the ground or in pots (pot grown will often fruit earlier).

Tomato growing areas should be prepared now for later planting by digging in

compost and fertilisers and in some cases changing soil if disease has been a problem (especially in greenhouses). It is still too early for planting, even in unheated greenhouses.

Seed sowing can be started in controlled areas like greenhouses, cloches and heated pads so that plants will be ready for transplanting in a few weeks time, more so for the hardier plants.

Once lawns have started to grow and have been cut at least twice they can be fed to encourage growth and suppress weeds.

As Spring warms there will a lot more to do in the garden and to look forward to. Good gardening.



This is an opportunity for Christchurch that can't be missed from our redevelopment which we as a Horticultural Society can't help but be excited about and part of, with something for everyone to experience and enjoy. Now let the fundraising begin!



"There is something very symbolically powerful that is coming out of the ruins of the dreadful earthquakes. There is also something very symbolic about a collaboration between two countries and two groups who have an understanding and narrative about a positive future rather than a negative past."

Sir Tim Smit (video message; July 2014)



Concept Design Initiative

Mick Abbot, Associate Professor, Design and Innovation at Lincoln University is leading the concept planning and design team for the proposed Ki Uta Ki Tai.

This will take place over the next four months and will lead to the development of a narrative, sketch plans and drawings that will be used to encourage community engagement and support for the project. It is also proposed to provide an opportunity for the wider community, including children and youths to be involved in developing ideas that fit the major theme – Land, Water and People.

Head on over to www.waterforlife.org.nz and see how you can have your say in the project.

INTERACTIVE HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS

Container Gardening with Dave Adams

Saturday 15 August 10am - 12pm
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

Members: FREE Non-members: \$10

Book online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

please note these details differ from the original publicity material

INTERACTIVE HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS

Hypertufa with Allan Paterson

Saturday 10 October 10am - 1pm
Magic Moss: 10 Truro Street, Sumner

Also includes all aspects of sphagnum moss production

Members: FREE Non-members: \$10

Book online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

2015 NATIONAL DAFFODIL SHOW

89th Annual South Island National Daffodil Society Show

Saturday 26 September 1 - 5pm

Sunday 27 September 9am - 4pm

Woodend Community Centre, Woodend
Gold coin entry

There will be cut flowers and potted bulbs for sale plus raffles, Devonshire teas and trade displays.

CHICKEN MANURE Rotary Fundraiser

Christchurch South Rotary Club's community fundraising project is for a new Automatic External Defibrillator for use at the Brain Research Institute, Christchurch and other community projects.

12kg plastic bags will be available from the following Christchurch sites on **Saturday 29 August and Saturday 5 September, 8.30am - 4pm.**

\$6 per bag or 4 bags for \$20.

For delivery within Christchurch city. 5 bags for \$30 or 10 bags for \$50.

*Please order by **Saturday, 22 August.** Deliveries made during the following week. Payment by cash, cheque or direct credit. Invoice left on delivery.*

Wairakei Road, close to Wairakei School

Innes Road, Malvern Park

Harewood Road, Nunweek Park

Ferrymead, McCormacks Bay Road

Cashmere Club, Colombo Street South

Cashmere Road, opp Crighton Terrace

Pages & Woodham Road corner

Halswell Road, close to Milns Road

Springs Road, Prebbleton

For further details, advance, or bulk orders, please contact: Graham Foulds tel: 355 6348 e: goulds@xtra.co.nz

PRUNING WORKSHOP

Well attended

30 people braved a freezing cold morning to attend the first of the Society's two pruning workshops at Annette Hill's property in Halswell. It was fantastic to see a mix of members and non members and a wide range of ages come along to learn about pruning.

After a wonderful morning tea provided by Annette, Neiel Drain talked about a variety of tools that gardeners can use for pruning and how to care for these tools. He then demonstrated pruning techniques for roses, fruit trees and hydrangeas. For those participants who had brought their secateurs they were able to put what they had learnt into practice by pruning some of Annette's roses. Dave Adams assisted with guidance to participants whilst they were pruning.

TOURS

Chiang Mai Flower Festival

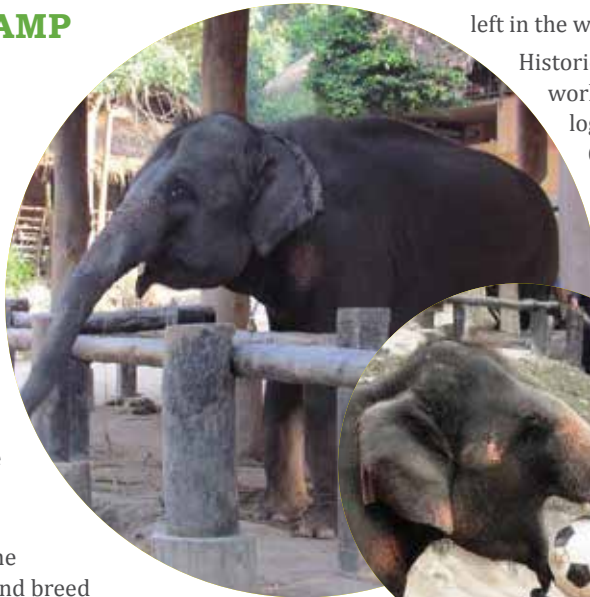
MAESA ELEPHANT CAMP

Day 12 of our Thailand Itinerary

The Maesa Elephant Camp is one of Chiang Mai's most famous attractions. It is situated in a beautiful forest environment with a small stream and waterfall in the Mae Sa valley, which is located just 30 km north of Chiang Mai city.

The elephant camp is the largest assembly of domesticated elephants in northern Thailand and is a must-see for every tourist.

The Camp's philosophy is to create a natural and healthy environment for the elephants while working to conserve and breed them to offset the dwindling number of Asian elephants



left in the wild.

Historically, the elephants were used as working animals in the transportation and logging industries, but the Maesa Elephant Camp focus is to breed, train, and conserve the Thai elephant population. The camp is home to nearly 80 Asian elephants, characterized by their spotted ears.

We will see the elephants working with their mahouts (trainers), bathing in the river and performing various tricks, including playing soccer, moving heavy objects and even painting landscapes! Getting acquainted with these intelligent creatures will be an unforgettable experience. *continued below...*

TOUR DIARY



Spring into Darfield Day Tour Wed 23 Sep 2015

A feast of Spring colour - Gunyah Estate, Taradale and the private gardens of Ina Phillips & Trish Ballaghs.

Book now: \$105 includes morning tea, lunch & coach



Dalkeith Look & Learn 1pm Wed 21 Oct 2015

A showcase of late Spring colour at its best

Book now: \$20 \$2 car pool includes afternoon tea



Taranaki Spectacular Longer Break 7-12 Nov 2015

A feast of gardens, scenic attractions, coastal walks, garden centre visits and retail therapy.

Book now: \$2,199 \$425 single supplement

Includes return airfares AirNZ and 4 star accommodation



Chiang Mai Flower Festival - Thailand

13 Day Longer Break 28 Jan - 10 Feb 2016

Includes 3 nights Bangkok, 2 nights River Kwai, 2 nights Chiang Rai and 5 nights in peaceful Chiang Mai.

Book now: \$5,999 \$550 single supplement



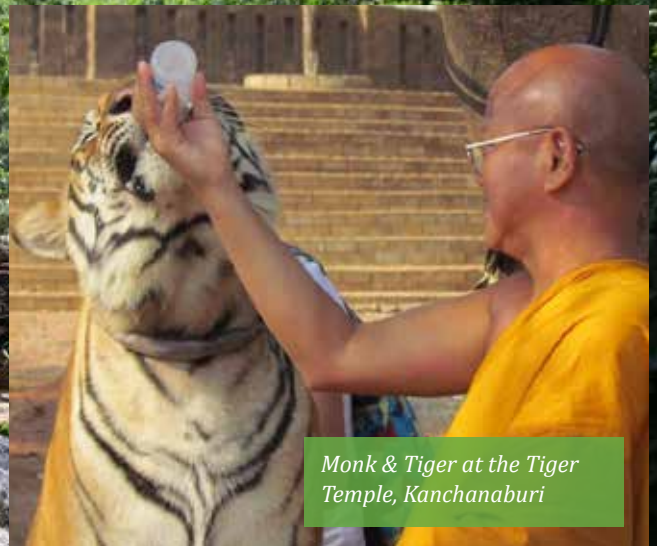
Norfolk Island Longer Break April 2016

A repeat of this popular tour with a difference including an Anzac Day special event. **Register your interest now**

There will be an opportunity for us to interact with the elephants, to visit the baby nursery and to feed them bananas and sugar cane - also the opportunity to ride an elephant up the hillside to visit the Baan Tong Luang Hill Tribe Village (long neck tribe).

At the village we will be tempted by traders, mostly women in traditional costume. It is a tradition amongst the Hmong people for their women to have gold rings placed around their neck from childhood, the number being increased as they grow to increase their neck length and supposedly to make them look beautiful.

The 13 Day Chiang Mai Flower Festival Tour runs 28 Jan - 12 Feb 2016, taking in Bangkok, the iconic River Kwai, Mae Fah Luang Gardens and Chiang Mai. This fully escorted tour is packed with inclusions and excellent value for money. **Book now: \$5,999.** Pick up a brochure from the CHS office or visit www.chsgardens.co.nz



Monk & Tiger at the Tiger Temple, Kanchanaburi

Member of the Month

Leonie Jackson

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

I was born in Christchurch and spent all my childhood here. Apart from a few years away travelling and working, this city has always been home to me.

Where do you live now and with whom?

I live in Avonhead with my husband, Brian. Our three sons all live in Auckland.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

My parents inspired me to love gardening and to appreciate nature and the 'great outdoors'. I now take friends on tours of my garden just as Mum did (and still does!) with me. Dad kept a well-stocked vegetable garden and I can now understand why he didn't appreciate my pet bantams running loose in it!

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

I love English woodland and cottage gardens. I particularly like visiting them and trying to recreate ideas in my own garden. I also love our New Zealand native plants and seeing them growing in the wild.

What's your favourite plant and why?

It's hard to choose a favourite plant as they all have their own beauty. However, I particularly like hebes for their variety of colour and form. They are hardy plants for home gardens and the flowers are great for picking.

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

The most challenging but enjoyable home gardening project has been creating a woodland garden in a previously sunny area now more shaded by surrounding trees.

When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined the CHS many years ago because my parents, Rae and Harold Mintrom were keen members. I thought it would be fun to join in activities with other gardening enthusiasts and learn from them as well.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

I hope the CHS continues to inspire gardeners of all ages and to be recognised and appreciated in our city. I hope it leads the way in keeping Christchurch's fame as the 'garden city'.

MONTHLY RECIPE

THAI-STYLE GINGER-PUMPKIN SOUP

Lending a taste of Thailand to a Kiwi favourite

Ingredients

1 large shallot, peeled, cut in half
1 red chilli, cut in half
8cm-piece fresh ginger, peeled, coarsely chopped
3 cloves garlic, peeled
2 limes, zest and juice separated
handful of fresh coriander, leaves and stems separated
1 Tbsp canola oil
3 carrots, peeled, sliced
900g pumpkin, peeled, seeded, cut into 3cm pieces
5 cups chicken stock or water
400ml can coconut milk

Method

Step 1: In a food processor, blend the shallot, chilli, ginger, garlic, lime zest and coriander stems to form a paste-like mixture.

Step 2: Heat a medium heavy pot over medium-high heat. Add the oil and paste and cook for 2 mins or until mixture is fragrant. Add the carrots, pumpkin, stock and all but 2 tablespoons of the coconut milk. Cover and bring to a simmer. Cook for 20 mins or until vegetables are tender.

Step 3: Using a blender, and working in batches, puree the soup with 2 tablespoons of lime juice until smooth and creamy. Season with salt. Ladle soup into bowls and garnish with remaining coconut milk and coriander leaves. Serve with a roti or flatbread for a Thai style.



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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