FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 2015

Christmas is coming – let the festivities begin...

Tuesday 1 December 7pm
& Wednesday 2 December 9.45am

The Plainsmen Perform (Tuesday session only)
These celebrated singers entertain with a selection of Christmas carols, old and new.

A Visit to Chelsea (Wednesday session only)
Creators of award winning gardens, CHS members Brian and Janet Lovelock whisk us away to the 100th Chelsea Flower Show.

From your Gardens - Lilies Galore
Bring your lilies - any shape, any condition - and we will share lily growing experiences, tips and advice.

Let’s get Creative - CHS members provide ideas for unique Christmas gifts

Fairy Gardens
CHS member Isabel Snyder creates tiny fairy gardens – the perfect Christmas gifts for imaginative children of all ages and Mossy Terrariums with Tim of Magic Moss, who makes unique terrariums with a Kiwi touch that will enhance any decor. Both will have items for sale so you can make your own personalised living gifts.

Members: $5.00 non-members: $10.00
Festive morning tea/supper included

Special thanks to all our members who led and participated in our display at the A&P Show. I saw many people talking to us there and this is an important part of our outreach programme.

Christmas is almost upon us and we are all planning family events. There is no better environment for this than in the garden, sharing food from each other’s garden and decorating with flowers and foliage from the garden.

This year why not give someone a gift subscription to the CHS? Participating in our various activities will stimulate ideas for an even better garden and lifestyle.

In my advice to people about their gardens over Summer I suggest the best thing they can do is enjoy the garden. Live in it, eat it, use it as an extra room, have fun. If you want to make changes get a small notebook and write down the changes you would like to make and leave it until Autumn.

Planning is underway for 2016. Shortly we will be issuing a Calendar of Events so you can see at a glance what the CHS is planning for the year ahead. Share these with your friends and family and they may also wish to come along to these. You will notice we are a very busy organisation and there is a great variety of things to do.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and Summer break and we will get together in 2016 for another full year of interactive activities.

Alan Jolliffe CHS President

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

Christmas Quiz

1. Who dreamed of a White Christmas?
2. Who sang of mistletoe and wine?
3. Of which Jewish king was Jesus a descendant?
4. Why was Joseph going to Bethlehem?
5. Who was Snoopy’s nemesis?

Answers: www.chsgardens.co.nz

We wish you a Merry Christmas

Holiday opening hours

The CHS Office will close at 4pm on Wednesday 23 December and reopen on Monday 11 January 2016
The Horticultural Events Committee once again flew the CHS flag at the show. It was pleasing to be visited by many young people who are keen to establish gardens post-eruption and were looking for advice and guidance. Vegetables, herbs, flowers and shrubs on display drew many interested folk to us. Old timers were particularly interested in the John Taylor tools collection and spent time reminiscing about how they used them in bygone times.

Many thanks to the willing members who cheerfully involved themselves in the construction, supervision and removal of the display.

Annette Hill

**NEW LOOK AAG!**
**February 2016**

**Tuesday 2 February 7pm**
**& Wednesday 3 February 9.45am**

The 2016 AAG programme has some new features and a more interactive format which we are sure you will enjoy. Visit www.chsgardens.co.nz in the new year to view highlights from the February programme and to check out what’s new.

**CHS CIRCLES**

**Daffodil Circle**
*Mon 14 December 7.30pm Watling Room*

**Chrysanthemum Circle**
*Mon 14 December 7pm Coulters Nursey Final potting of charms and cushions. Bring small festive plate for supper.*
*Mon 18 January 7.30pm Watling Room Dishbudding & bud securing earlies. Pest management. Update on National Show.*

**CHS CIRCLES**

**Fruit & Vegeable Circle**
*Sat 23 January from 4.30pm BBQ at the Phil & Linda Duckers Refer to CHS website for what to bring*  
*Wed 27 January 7.30pm Watling Room Keeping Fit for Gardening*

**Subs Reminder**
Thanks to everyone that has already paid. For those of you who have not, please do so before 20 Dec or call the office tel: 366 6937

**LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE CHS**

CHS Membership for as little as $22.50!

Need an inspired gift idea? Complete the form below and return before 7 December and we’ll send you a personalised gift voucher. Vouchers are available for single membership: $22.50 or double: $27.50 and valid until 31 Dec 2016.

**Membership Recipient Details**
Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________
City:_______________________________Postcode: ______________
Email:__________________________________________________________

**Your Payment Details**
Pay by credit card for the sum of $__________
Visa □  Mastercard □
Cardholders Name:____________________________________________
Card Number:_______________________________________________
Expiry date:______/_______
Online banking for the sum of $__________
Pay by cheque for the sum of $__________

**Your Details (for receipt of gift voucher)**
Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________
City:_______________________________Postcode: ______________

Post this completed form to: PO Box 369, Chch 8140 or pay via eftpos at the office.
Canterbury Horticultural Society Inc.
ANZ 06 0831 0006913 00 Ref [7200]
The 2nd Orderings School Gardens Show will be held at the Woolston Club over the three day period 11-13 March next year. Co-sponsored by Magic Moss and Daltons we have ten schools signed up already – West Spreydon, West Melton, Shirley Intermediate, Casebrook Intermediate, Oaklands, Northcote, Opawa, St Mark’s, Halswell & Parkview and we hope to host 2 more schools. Our main promotional tool will be 100 coreflute signs measuring 1200 x 800mm and we’re seeking the cooperation of members in displaying them either on their own or their friends’ and neighbours’ fences – but only in prominent locations where there are high levels of vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Cul-de-sacs, regrettably, are of little value.

If you can help just call into the office and pick up as many signs as you can handle.

We’ll even supply you with the screws needed to affix the signs. Finally, we’d need you to agree to take the signs down upon completion of the Show.

Research Project Participation
We’ve been approached by the University of Canterbury to assist in a research project “Exploring the wellbeing of independently living community-dwelling older people” The research is on people 70 years or older who still live within the community as opposed to those living in retirement complexes. Participants would be asked to complete a small survey on their wellbeing that takes about 15 minutes. All information is anonymous and has no identifying information required. For the research to be valid UC require a large number of participants. It would be more time efficient if they were able to attend meetings where participants can fill in the questionnaire then and there.

Accordingly I have scheduled 3 times as follows: 11am, Mon 7 December; 2pm Tues 8 Dec and 11am Wed 9 Dec – all in the PC Browne room for meetings with the UC researchers. If you are willing to participate in this project please call the office on: 366 6937 or email me: tony.kunowski@chsgardens.co.nz to confirm which session you wish to attend.

December, the beginning of Summer and all those flowers, fruit and vegetables to grow and harvest. We are well behind on our rain fall and the ground is very dry so we need to manage our watering well to ensure that our garden will produce good results. Mulching will become more important especially around the shrub border and fruit trees. Watering well will make the plants grow and keep them healthy. Stressed plants are more susceptible to pest and diseases. Weeds also will be a problem with more watering so be sure to keep the hoe going while the weeds are small and leave 2 to 3 days after hoeing before watering to get the best weed control.

Lawns
The hot Summer time is hard on lawns regular watering and feeding will help keep them green.

Do not cut grass too low as the hot sun on the root zone tends to make the grass go dormant.

Flower Garden
Transplant young plants into the garden in the cooler evenings to reduce transplant shock.

Water garden in the mornings if possible so that plants have dry leaves at night.

Hoe weeds in the hottest part of the day to get a good kill of weeds.

Fast growing perennials need to be supported before they get too tall to keep them straight.

Dead head roses and other flowering shrubs to encourage more flowers.

Pinch out the tips of annuals 2 weeks after planting to make them more compact and produce more flowers.
Ingredients
250 g butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup fruit mincemeat
1 cup apricot jam
4 eggs
3 cups flour
¼ cup cocoa
1 tsp ground nutmeg
1 tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground cloves
1 cup natural unsweetened yoghurt
1 tsp baking soda
1 cup walnuts, chopped
½ cup pecans, chopped
extra nuts for decorating plus ½ cup red and green glacé cherries

Method
Preheat oven to 180 °C, then grease and flour 3 23cm sponge pans. Cream butter and both sugars in a large bowl. Stir in the fruit, mincemeat, jam and eggs. Mix in the dry ingredients and spices alternatively with the yoghurt. Blend well. Stir in the raisins, walnuts and pecans. Pour the batter into the prepared pans. Bake about 40-45 minutes or until the centre springs back when touched. Allow the cakes to cool in the pans for 10 minutes before turning out. Then allow to cool completely. Place one layer on a serving platter and spread the top with Caramel Frosting. Top with the second layer and spread with more frosting, repeat with the remaining layer. Sprinkle with extra walnuts, pecans and cherries to decorate.

Caramel Frosting
150g butter
1 ½ cups brown sugar, firmly packed
½ cup milk
1 tsp vanilla essence
3 cups icing sugar
Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan. Add the sugar and milk, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Increase the heat and bring to the boil. Remove from heat. Allow to stand until lukewarm - 30 minutes. Stir in the vanilla and whisk, adding the icing sugar until the mixture is creamy in texture.

This is a deep cake that provides an alternative to the traditional Christmas cake and keeps well.

Prune back any excessive growth on trees and shrubs that may be growing over drives or paths.
As Spring bulbs finish their leaf growth and dry off remove leaves and cover over to help stop pests getting at bulbs. Some bulbs like tulips and iris are better lifted each year.

Fruit & Vegetable Garden
Inspect plants to look out for any signs of pest and disease and take control measures if needed.
Make successive sowings and plantings of veggies but give enough time between plantings so that crops do not overlap.
Give fruit trees regular deep watering to help developing fruit to get to size.
Start to sow crops that will be harvested in the Winter.
Once grapes have finished flowering pinch back growths to 1 leaf passed the bunches to allow light and air to the developing bunches to reduce disease and make the fruit sweeter.
Make regular watering and feeding to tomatoes, remove laterals and tie to supports.
Harvest fruit and vegetables when they are at their best to help with continuous supply.

Our Monthly Tips & Tasks are published online at: www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/all-about-gardening/tips-tasks

MARGARET WATLING DEMONSTRATION DVD
Relive this wonderful night of floral creativity, camaraderie and humour with a professionally produced DVD now available on order from the CHS (please allow is 10 days for production and delivery).
$12 order via the CHS office or online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

SUMMER GARDEN AWARDS
Our 2016 Summer Garden Awards have had a revamp. Open to everyone and with loads of new categories it is now even easier to participate in.
Collect an entry form from the CHS office or download one from our website.

EDIBLE GARDEN AWARDS
Join in a celebration of localised food production. Entries don’t close until Friday 19 February so there is plenty of time to get growing! An initiative of the Shirley/Papanui Ward - with entries restricted to this ward.
Collect an entry form from our office or download one from:
www.chsgardens.co.nz FREE
We were a small group this year including two lovely American ladies who joined us in New Plymouth having booked from our website.

The gardens were varied, interesting and truly beautiful, exceeding all expectations and the hosts most hospitable and friendly. The tour was a spectacular experience, aptly named. It was observed with the substantial rainfall and good soils the rhododendrons and many other plants were of high health.

Holyoake Garden is a contemporary garden incorporating a landscaped edible garden. This was full of planters packed with crops about to be harvested - sugar snap peas climbing up a trellis, asparagus, beet and all colours of lettuce to name a few. Tropical fruit like passionfruit, ginger and avocados were also growing in this very productive garden. A beehive was buzzing with bees and the netted berry house produced luscious fruit.

Armstrong Garden is a charming cottage garden featuring colour and fragrance and many self seeding plants such as love in the mist, linaria, olaya, daisies and cerinthe.

A highlight of the Oakley Garden was the amazing hanging baskets full of massed annuals. There were also groupings of different sized pots planted with complementary foliages such as ligularia britt marie crawford, hostas, heucheras, parsley. For colour rhodohypoxis made a statement. The sales table with potted plants propagated from the garden was very popular with the visitors, especially as many of the plants are not available at Garden Centres anymore.

Pukeiti is an exotic rhododendron collection nestled in rainforest. Now owned by the Taranaki Regional Council there are many noticeable improvements and investment in the Park such as walkways, labelling of plants, new tropical gardens for vireyas and more car parking. Many of the rhododendrons were blooming in colour - wow!

Note: to do in the garden
Prune to reduce the size or rejuvenate rhododendrons and camellias. Feed with acid fertiliser around the drip line. Plant any plants purchased on tour to have lasting memories of this Taranaki garden tour - a province rich in horticulture and gardening.

TOUR DIARY

Christmas Tour Reunion
12 noon Friday 4 December
A gathering at the home of Gail Scrivener for Melbourne, WOW Wellington & Taranaki tour participants.

Tai Tapu

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
6 places remaining - last opportunity

Norfolk Island Longer Break 24 April - 1 May 2016
Includes return airfares, 3½ star hotel accommodation, return transfers, 6 dinners, 7 breakfasts and a selection of hand-picked Norfolk Island excursions. Great value tour!
Book now: $2,999 $175 single supplement

Summer Gardens Day Tour - Wednesday 27 January 2016
Garden View, Cedar Park Gardens and more
Includes morning tea, BYO lunch. Car pool
Book now: $30 brochure available

WOW World of Wearable Arts Tour - Wellington
October 2016, a repeat of this popular Wellington short break
Brochure & costs available 2016
Member of the Month

Richard Smith

Where were you born and where did you spend most of your childhood?
Born in Christchurch and spent most of my childhood in what was then the small country town of Rolleston.

Where do you live now and with whom?
I live in Bishopdale with my 10 year old ginger tom Beefa, who is also head of bird control.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?
Both my dad’s and my grandad’s expansive vegetable gardens. I also went fruit picking one Summer, which ended up as a 15 year long career in pip and stone fruit production.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?
Growing apple, pears, stonefruit and berryfruit. There is always something new at the garden centre and I’m always willing to give it a go.

What’s your favourite plant and why?
Five years ago I discovered a plumcot tree at my local Oderings store and have spent the last five years figuring out how to grow them.

What’s been your most challenging and/or rewarding gardening project?
Learning all about plumcots and its been very challenging to get the pollination right, but I have finally achieved it this year.

When did you join the CHS and why?
I joined about a year ago, to learn more about gardening because you can never know to much and you can never stop learning.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?
To continue learning, and also continue to share my knowledge with others.

NEWS FROM HortTalk

HortTalk has been busy this month! We’ve had queries ranging from curly asparagus to plant identification to our latest post from Alison, “I have a problem with neighbouring cats digging up my newly planted vege seeds and baby plants. Any solutions would be worth trying!”

One answer was “I have read that moth balls are a good deterrent - Maybe cover your plants with bird netting?”

You can see some of the other responses to the right. If anyone has encountered this problem and can share a solution do sign up: www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk

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