



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 221 February 2016

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CHS Centre: office hours 9am – 4pm

www.chsgardens.co.nz

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CELEBRATING The Edible Garden



ALL ABOUT GARDENING

February 2016

Tuesday 2nd 7pm & Wednesday 3rd 9.45am

From your Gardens - Herbs, roses and beans – success stories or problems - plus anything special from your garden that you would like to share.

Origins of a Meal

Otahuna's passionate herb and vegetable gardener, Adrian Harrison, shows us how he grows tip top produce for the discerning chefs in the kitchen of Canterbury's favourite luxury lodge. Plot to pot at the highest level.

Loving Herbs

Cathy Bouma has loved growing and using herbs since she was a teenager. Now she runs Tuahiwi Herbs, growing high quality organic herbs which she hand picks at their peak, dries naturally, and handcrafts into teas, herbal products and natural skincare. Cathy shares her philosophy, experiences and products. She will have products for sale.

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

Morning tea/supper included

Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park

QUIZ

To which genus do the following plants belong?

1. Dogs Tooth Violet
2. Carrot
3. Onion
4. Carnation
5. African Violet

Answers: www.chsgardens.co.nz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month we celebrate the fourth Edible Garden Awards - and what a bountiful selection of gardens we have seen over the years!

Now is a good time to stop and think about horticultural and gardening trends. In other words, what's happening.

Here are my ideas, what are yours?

Edible Gardens

- Edible gardens will continue to move from the vegetable garden to take over some of the ornamental gardens in and around our houses.
- Edible gardens will become cleaner and tidier but retain their organic ideals.
- Edible gardens will become more productive as we learn how to manage them better.

Ornamental Gardens & Home Landscaping

- There will be more demand, but only slowly, for a wider range of garden plants.
- People will seek to find more unusual plants but nurseries will be slow to source them and grow them due to limited demand (unfortunately)

- Lawns will continue to get smaller and will disappear altogether on smaller sections.
- Potted bedding plants will continue to drop off as people realise the amount of work required to keep containers going.

Outdoor Living Spaces

- We still have a long way to go in creating sheltered outdoor living spaces that truly allow the outdoors to be experienced over a longer period in our climate.
- Quality decks will replace patios as they are warmer (concrete is cold).

Online Gardening Information

- The quality of this information will continue to improve as some poorer websites are taken offline and more knowledge is shared via video.
- People will continue to use websites and social media for gardening information.

Let us know what you think will happen!

Alan Jolliffe CHS President

2016 Oderings School Gardens Show *update*



After the relative success of the inaugural School Gardens Show in 2015, proudly supported by Oderings Garden Centres, it was most gratifying to have Oderings renew its sponsorship of this event in the form of a \$500 purchase voucher for every participating school. With a limit of 12 schools there are 11 confirmed at the time of writing this in mid-January: West Spreydon, West Melton, Shirley Intermediate (all entrants in 2015), St Marks, Opawa, Casebrook Intermediate, Northcote, Halswell, Oaklands, Sumner & Parkview. Each school has also received 10 or more bags of potting mix from Daltons and up to three 25 litre bags of sphagnum moss from Magic Moss. In addition the CHS has provided \$500 in cash.

The show will be held in the Woolston Club, 34 Hargood St between the dates of 11-13 March inclusive. The Woolston Club was chosen for 3 reasons: firstly, we had expected the Horticultural Hall to have been sold by the time of the show. Secondly, it would have been an extremely tight fit to accommodate 12 schools in the Templin Hall. Thirdly, there's acres of easily accessible parking!

We want to make this event a major "must see" in Christchurch's calendar and demonstrate our commitment to horticultural innovation among the city's younger generation on whom our future depends. We need your help! Please tell your neighbours and friends about it and encourage them to see the show, and if you have children or grandchildren please take them so they may be inspired by the creativity of their peers and wish to emulate them!!



St Albans Catholic School
Scented Night Garden



West Melton Primary
students celebrate
their award



West Spreydon School
Trash to Treasure

ALL ABOUT GARDENING March 2016

Tuesday 1st 7pm & Wednesday 2nd 9.45am

From your Gardens featured produce:
courgettes, dahlias and anything special.
Success & problem plants equally welcome!

Glass Houses 101 Learn all the tricks and techniques for glass house gardening.

Potting Up Practical/interactive workshops with Michael Coulter and Dave Adams.

CHS CIRCLES

Chrysanthemum Circle

Mon 15 February 6pm

11 Ruakaka Street

Bring something for a pot luck dinner.
General cultural notes, pest control and bud securing. Update on National Show.

Floral Art Circle

Thu 18 February 1.30pm

Watling Room

Fruit & Vegetable Circle

Sun 14 February 2-4pm

Garden Party at the home of Sue and Peter Saunders. Please bring a small plate for afternoon tea and a seat. If the weather is doubtful please contact Janice by telephone: 332 9009.

Wed 24 February 7pm

Visit to New Brighton Community Gardens followed by supper. Please bring money for raffle and possibly plant sales.

PLANT OF THE MONTH *Geranium Rozanne*

Geranium Rozanne is unlike other traditional geraniums. This excellent long season plant has a medium sized, mounded growth habit reaching 60cm and flowers from early in the Summer with showy clusters of bright violet-purple flowers. Add to the front of a garden border or plant en-mass in mixed containers or large hanging baskets.

Available from **Oderings Garden Centres**
www.oderings.co.nz



Stepping Stones to City-hood – A Cross-roads for

Colin D Meurk (Honorary Botanist, CHS and Researcher)

It's a cliché that the city lost so much and squandered opportunities; but the heart still beats and embers of city pride still glow. We seem to be waiting for winds of change to fan them into newly imagined life. I've previously alluded to a multi-layered response to the Christchurch predicament. Not an 'either/or' city, locked into one corseted dimension (to paraphrase Evan Smith). What kind of image do we want to project and, importantly, what will endure? What will speak of the present as well as the past? This is a crucial question and time for Christchurch. And CHS should be a voice in that conversation. The danger we (the country, the region and the city) are facing, is acquiescing to a homogenised world where every place is the same. Our identity and sovereignty depends on

having a point of difference; being bold, continually innovative yet holding onto core values while adopting the good from global culture; preserving all our layers of history, that anchor us, while synthesising and presenting a fresh face, calmly, richly, without appearing to be obsessive.

The essence of place is reinforced through visual cues to history, uniqueness, identity, negotiated co-existence between nature and culture, an inclusive, social contract, being a crucible and catalyst for creativity. These attributes are all threatened by globalisation of economics, architecture, and landscape, and extinction of experience. The special and unique cues, to a sadly under-sold Christchurch, lie with its landscape – the intricate or sweeping shoreline of rock and sand, the plains spilled over by river braids, the

rolling hills and cloud piercing mountains; the skyscape – the breath-taking nor' west sky song; the Gondwanic heritage – lofty kahikatea, squiggly inanga, ancient wrens and kiwi; and then the people, the millennial, embracing cloak of mana whenua; the colonial tapestry, the garden city and maybe now the modern eco-city, expressed in music, street arts, physicality of built structures, and scholarship – the synthesis of all that has gone before, celebrating each layer discretely and distinctly – but joined up in a way that preserves all the stories, inter-woven like strands of a harakeke rope tenaciously connecting our birth and struggles through space and time.

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thu 18 February 3:45 - 5pm
Watling Room

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Garden Club Reps
Tue 2 February 10am
PC Browne Room

RAMBLERS 2016

Tuesday 9 February 9.45am

Styx Mill Reserve

Meet in car park Husseys Rd

Tuesday 23 February 9.45am

Barbados Street Cemetery

Meet corner Barbadoes & Salisbury Sts

No walk if very wet. FREE

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

SUMMER GARDEN AWARDS 2016

Congratulations to all participating gardeners. The judges are looking forward to viewing this year's entries. It has been a great turn out with numbers up from last year - well done everyone for supporting this event.

The award ceremony will take place at the CHS soon, we'll keep you posted. Until then we hope you can join Gail's tour on Wednesday 17th which will visit a selection of winning gardens. *See the tour section for details.*

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS With Michael Coulter

Summer is a real mixed bag of weather with some hot days and then some quite cool days, still not much rain and plenty of wind. Many of the early Spring sown or planted crops are now finished so they can be pulled out and the ground prepared for the planting of Winter crops. Leeks, brassicas and lettuce can be planted to give a constant supply.

I have noticed that my fruit trees have a good crop and they have also made a lot of growth so a Summer prune to allow light in on the fruit to help with colour and ripening will need to be carried out now. Now is also the time to give those plants prone to thrips a spray to avoid the leaves getting damaged.

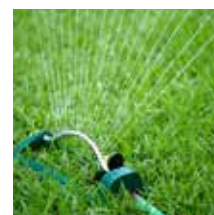
The ground is still very dry so good deep watering is needed about once a week to keep the plants in good condition. Keep up the water on the citrus plants to ensure the development of the fruit. Dead head the spent flowers on annuals and roses to encourage more flowers to develop. Tomatoes are starting to ripen so remove lower leaves to help them to colour up and look out for any pests that may attack them and take control measures if needed.

Lawns

Cut lawns each week but not too low

Water each week.

Lawns will need to be fed to keep them growing



Christchurch's Image – A Role for CHS?

(by Cheryl Associate, Landcare Research)



Our anchor projects need to not only be masonry, steel, timber and glass, old and new, but cathedrals of matai, totara and kowhai, feeding kereru and korimako, and drifts of snowy kanuka ... all sanctuaries for wildlife, for ideas, curiosity, learning and solutions for the 'wicked problems' of the future rushing towards us. We need to bring together good old-fashioned gardening, imagination and clever design, leavened and joined up by history, diversity and ecology – in other

words sensitivity to our own environment and a place where lessons can be learnt and maybe shared with visitors, tourists, the country (caught up in its own struggles of flags and nationhood), and beyond to the troubled world. We do have a part to play in the relentless march of time; we should grab the opportunity, and not just sit on our hands, wallowing. We don't need to be puffed up about it, but we can make sure we are a place to be - for people, plants and poetry.

What's in it for CHS - in this re-imagining? We can speak up, provide inspirational imagery that helps people imagine, that presents and interprets a collage of genres, that has meaning to the city's history; the thought-provoking lecture series and the tried and true technical programmes; youth-relevance through social media

messaging, practical work that not only show-cases conventional gardening and the garden city but delves into its meaning and expands the relevance; and through contemporary habitat enhancement and restoration that captures our endangered savannah, featuring the tiny plants and textured shrubs, uniquely adapted to Canterbury's aridity - through publicly visible roadside examples, such as along the Christchurch 360 Trail, and through propagating material for Canterbury rock-gardens and related green roofs, walls and pavers; and promoting a balance of English and indigenous noble street trees – all to feed dependent native insects, lizards and birds. This would be a distinctive Christchurch and Canterbury that would add to the many faces of the city - once again a place to be, and to visit.

CRAFT de CLUTTER SALE

Saturday 6 February 9am-12pm
St Mark's Church Hall
Cnr Opawa Road & Vincent Place

Calling all floral art & craft lovers!

This annual fundraising sale has loads of floral art items including lovely books. Most items are new and selling for less than half price.

Visit www.textileandfibreartsnetwork.org.nz for more on what's available.

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

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS FOR THE HOME

Make a note in the diary for our forthcoming April Workshop Series. UK florist Ursula Wright joins us once again with a 4-week long twilight programme, 'How to Arrange Beautiful Flowers for the Home'. A great place for beginners to start, or for those looking for new ideas. Organise a group of friends for a fun and creative project.

Brochure and costs available next month.

Flower Garden

Keep the weeds out by regular hoeing in the morning.

Deep water once a week and leave plants dry by the evening.

Prune back roses once flowers have finished to encourage later flowers.

Dead head perennials and plants like agapanthus so that they do not seed and become a pest.

Pinch back annuals to help keep them compact.



Put in supports around taller plants before they get too tall to keep them tidy.

Prune back any growth on trees that are growing over paths or in areas where they are a problem

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

Transplant seedlings in the cooler evening to reduce stress on the plants.

Summer prune fruit trees of excessive growth to let in more light.

Prune gooseberries, currants and stone fruit as soon as harvest is finished.

Keep water and fertiliser up on strawberries to keep them cropping.

Wait for garlic tops to fall over then lift them and let them dry off on top of the soil.

Plant leeks and give them plenty of fertiliser.



Keep weeds down by regular hoeing.

Spray brassicas for white butterfly especially new plantings.

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

Experience 360° of Wonders

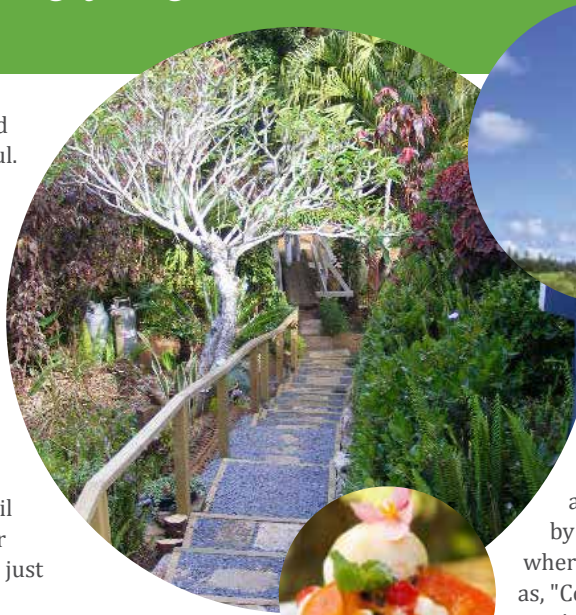
Norfolk Island - 8 day fully escorted tour

Norfolk is an island rich in history and filled with scenery that is breathtakingly beautiful.

A small island 8km by 5km and yet it still has so much to offer. Challenge yourself and experience the amazing ocean floor and coral reefs, enjoy the various bush walks and forestry trails, indulge in some of the islands best gourmet foods and wines or venture into town where 75 tax free shops are waiting for you! Norfolk Island is the "Bounteous Isle" in every way. Are you ready to explore and discover?

The 2016 tour departing on Sunday 24 April will be the (4th) time the CHS has led a tour to this popular destination and each time it just seems to get better!

The fully escorted 8 day tour is packed with activities. To start, you'll fly in comfort with Air New Zealand from Christchurch, enjoying "The Works" on-board package. Your accommodation is



the wonderfully comfortable 3½ Star Castaway Island Hotel. Every room enjoys a beautiful outlook

while also having the advantage of being situated downtown, close to shops and restaurants.

Day one is a free day to get acquainted with the island followed by a delicious dinner at Hilli Restaurant where you will find such taste sensations as, "Corn fed chicken supreme filled with goat's cheese and roasted macadamia nuts, herbed polenta chips, Hilli greens, brandy & green peppercorn jus!" Yum!

TOUR DIARY



Summer Garden Award Tour

Wednesday 17 February

Visit a selection of award-winning gardens with Gail Scrivener. *Self-drive, no charge, meet at the CHS at 9.30am.*



Norfolk Island Longer Break 24 April - 1 May 2016

Bookings required now for tour to go ahead!

\$2,999 \$175 single supplement



WOW World of Wearable Arts - Wellington

October 2016, a repeat of this popular Wellington short break **Brochure & costs available soon**



Culverden Fete & Hanmer Springs

Thursday 27 October - Overnight

Enjoy the delicious local fare and handicrafts at the Culverden fete then head over to Hanmer Springs to explore the private gardens of this unique alpine setting. **Brochure & costs available soon**



Auckland Flower Show & Waiheke Island

Short Break - Mid November

Register your interest now for a chance to explore Auckland's first flower show post Ellerslie.



Other highlights include:

Green Fingers Tour, this tour features some of the islands most lovely gardens. In the morning visit a nursery owned and operated by a young Norfolk Islander and view the hydroponics. You will also visit a gorgeous private garden with a spectacular view.



Breakfast Bushwalk

Take your choice of stroll through Hundred Acres Reserve or for the more energetic, a 3.5km walk through scenic Mt Bates to Captain Cook Monument. At the end of the walk meet on the cliff top for a delicious breakfast barbecue.



Island Fish Fry Dinner

Enjoy a feast of island dishes, salads, homemade bread and fresh fried fish followed by island desserts, tea or coffee. Watch the sun set from Puppy's point on Norfolk's beautiful western coastline and enjoy some local entertainment.



Half Day Orientation Tour

Discover the history of the famous convict buildings, renowned Melanesian Chapel, Government laws and lifestyle on this full commentary conducted tour. Enjoy morning tea in the garden of an historic home built by Fletcher Christian and Matthew Quintal.

Last opportunity. Book now!

Member of the Month

Maureen Page

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

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, where I spent my childhood and most of my adult life.

Where do you live now and with whom?

My husband, David passed away four years ago, I still live in the same house on the Cashmere Hills.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

My home, garden and Burmese cat are my pride and joy. Fortunately I am still fit enough to keep up gardening on the hillside. I also have an interest in a garden at Halswell Quarry Park, which Cashmere Garden Club supports.

What's your favourite plant and why?

I don't really have a favourite plant - I like colour and texture and favour proteaceae, rhododendrons and heucheras, and have many

varieties in my garden. I started gardening at a very early age, as both my Mother and Grandmother were keen gardeners.

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

My challenging garden project has been gardening in a very different climate compared to Cape Town, as well as gardening on a hillside, which was initially quite a challenge.

When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined the CHS in late 1996 in order to meet people and learn about the different plants grown in Christchurch.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

My passion for the future of the CHS - I think it is heading in the right direction, but more emphasis could be made of member's gardens. Gardeners have a wealth of untapped knowledge and visiting them could be very informative.

NEWS FROM HortTalk

Thank-you Anna for sharing your rose issue with the group, "Hello, I planted this rose (ebb tide) this year and it doesn't seem to grow bushy much. The other variety planted beside grew already really nice and bushy. Is there something wrong with this rose. I also noticed some leaves turning yellow. Any advice is very much appreciated."

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



Michael Coulter A bit hard to tell from this photo could be a number of problems from a disease to a nutrition deficiency or a root problem I would need more information to help. Look under the leaves to see if there is any sign of disease or pest infection, check the ... [See More](#)

Like · January 12 at 9:17pm



Rachel Vogan I totally agree with Michael - cut it back by about a third. Drench with seasol to give the roots a boost and in 6 - 8 weeks time it should look a lot better. Water deeply once a week

Like · 1 · January 12 at 9:54pm

↳ Ali Jones replied · 1 Reply



David Adams I would agree with Michael and then suggest that spider mite may be the problem. The ground looks very dry too. Hard pruning and some rose fertiliser will give the opportunity for new growth. It will take about sixty days until the next flowering after this. If the new growth is still unhealthy then we may have to look for an internal problem with the plant.

Like · January 12 at 9:56pm



Anna Nass Thanks to all for your tips. Luckily I was not able to find any sign of pests or diseases. I cut it back and gave it a good watering and seasol. We will see how it does, can't get worse. 😊 Happy gardening!



kiwigardener



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