



Oderings School Gardens Show *Time for our youngest gardeners to shine again*

10-12 March 2017 Woolston Club, 43 Hargood Street Woolston
Opening Hours: Friday & Saturday: 10am - 5pm, Sunday: 10am - 3pm
*Remember to vote for your favourite garden in the **People's Choice Award**
Gold coin entry, plenty of parking*



 **ODERINGS**
GARDEN CENTRES

Sale of Horticultural Hall

Despite a last minute minor hiccup the sale of the Horticultural Hall is proceeding and the possession date of 31 March is expected to be confirmed. At this stage details of our new office location and the overall exit plan are work in progress. Hopefully we'll be able to give you full details in the April issue.

April AAG

Monday 3rd 7pm & Tuesday 4th 9.45am

Arrival Cuppa - self serve tea and coffee available for members from 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

Dan Rutherford, a prominent landscape gardener will be the main speaker on "new planting techniques". The following interactive session will focus on planting techniques.

Also in the programme: **From Your Gardens and this month's Tips and Tasks** with Michael, Dave and Alan.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Plenty of Parking available

*Free to CHS Members, \$5 Non-members
Includes tea, coffee and refreshments*

*what's on
next
month*

From the President

All About Gardening for 2017 is off to a wonderful start. At our first two meetings in the lovely Bridge Club building in Nova Place we had 90 people on Monday night and 70 people on Tuesday morning. Some of our best numbers for a while. Welcome to the 6 new members.

As well as a new venue we have a large TV set for all our presentations providing superb quality images. We are hiring different PA systems to find the best one for us before we purchase something that suits. Come and join us for these great nights.

Last week signs went up for the Oderings School Garden Show to be held at the Woolston Club 10 – 12 March. Come along and visit all these schools and see the extraordinary gardens built by these children.

Shortly you will also see advertising for the Terra Viva Autumn Garden Show which again will be in the Botanic Gardens near the visitor centre. Last year we had up 1000's of visitors and we would love more this year.

We have been working on venues for activities for the rest of this year and still need to make some arrangements for a few more meetings and activities.

This year will be one of learning to operate in a different way and in nicer venues. My aim is to further improve the quality of what we do, plan our programmes into the future and communicate to a wider audience to interest more people into the art, science and practice of gardening and horticulture.

On behalf of the Board I hope you will join us on this exciting journey.
Alan Jolliffe



The three wise men of AAG
Michael, Alan & Dave

Flower Power!

Calibrachoa



ODERINGS
GARDEN CENTRES

I love the non-stop flower power which Calibrachoa have to offer. They start flowering from early Spring, and with a little haircut in early Summer they come away with even more flushes of flowers which will continue until frosts.

These callies are perennials, and as long as they don't get too wet in Winter, they will come alive again each and every year. Added into hanging baskets, pots and containers or in garden borders there is a colour to suit any gardener who loves pops of impact colour.

New varieties include the Strawberry Shortcake & Tsunami Firestorm (pictured).

Available at all Oderings stores or online: www.oderings.co.nz

Don't forget to come along and support the city's youngest gardeners at the Third Oderings School Gardens Show, Friday 10, Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 March, 43 Hargood St, Woolston.



what's on
this
month

AAG MARCH

Monday 6th 7pm & Tuesday 7th 9.45am

Arrival Cuppa - self serve 30 minutes prior

Susan Sanders, Christchurch Botanic Gardens Collection Curator is our main speaker for March. She will be talking about fuchsias.

Michael Coulter follows with discussion on standardising chrysanthemums and planting for Spring colour.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Free to CHS Members, \$5 Non-members
Includes tea, coffee and refreshments

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

Monday 20 March 7pm

Watling Lounge, CHS Centre

General cultural notes, pest control housing of lates, problem solving and questions.

Preparation for the Autumn Garden Show

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

Wednesday 29 March 7.30pm

Location to be advised

"The Seed Warehouse" – a member from the Canterbury owned, online horticultural store, will talk to us about their business. They sell vegetable seed varieties – organic, heirloom and general. They offer helpful, natural solutions to many garden problems. See more at: www.theseedwarehouse.co.nz

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*



February has been a windy, dry and warm month which has kept me busy in the garden trying to keep up with all the work as well as the extra watering needed to keep the

plants healthy.

All my stone fruit has been harvested and I am now looking forward to apples and pears. The flower garden has put on good show especially my pots of geraniums and perennial petunias, they just keep on flowering so I can recommend them for

any garden.

March is a busy month in the garden as we are harvesting much of our fruit and vegetable crops and also preparing for the planting of bulbs, flowers and vegetables for the Winter and Spring. Many of the tasks that are needed to be done now will determine what the garden will produce later in the year.

Many pest and diseases are seen on our plants now and may be the cause of disappointing results, try and identify these so next season the right treatments can be followed to give you good outcomes. If you need advice or identification of pest and diseases put samples in a plastic bag and bring it along to our All About Gardening meetings. Any

plant, flower or fruit that you are proud of bring them along too as this adds to the interest of these meetings.

Much of my time this month will be spent on my chrysanthemums preparing for the Autumn show at the end of April, as well as all the other tasks in and around my garden.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting covering the period 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2016 will be held at **on Thursday 20 April at 7.30pm**.
The venue has yet to be confirmed.

Buy/Sell/Exchange!

Car Boot Sale

Great plants from Members' gardens
Affordable prices!

Christchurch Bridge Club Car Park

21 Nova Place - off Barbadoes Street

Saturday 25 March 10am- 12pm (set-up from 9.30am)

Cancelled if wet - (check website/facebook if unsure)

We look forward to seeing you later this month at our inaugural

Car Boot Sale. There are plenty of car spaces available, simply drive, park then open your boot and begin to bargain!

Don't worry if you have nothing to sell or exchange, just bring along some cash and take a stroll along the open boots.

This event is open to CHS and Bridge Club members only.



Sites: Members \$2 | Commercial \$10
(payment will be collected on the day)

Bookings: Please confirm with the CHS Office by **Wednesday 22 March**. - Contact: office@chsgardens.co.nz or tel: 366 6937

- Sellers to provide own float - cash sales only
- Plants must be **good quality**, pots etc. must be clean
- All unsold items must be removed at the conclusion of the event
- The Bridge Club Rooms will be open and available for toilet facilities only
- BYO tea and coffee

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Thursday 16 March 3pm
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre



Join tutor Helen Grantham for a fun, Saint Patrick's Day inspired lesson.

Please bring: oasis wet, bowl or plate

Theme: Saint Patrick's Day

Colours: green, gold and white

Lesson: foliage preparation and triangle lines

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 7 March 12 - 1pm
Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 16 March 3:45 - 5pm
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 14 March 9.45am
Otukaikino, Belfast
Park on cnr opposite Belfast Hotel

Tuesday 28 March 9.45am

The Limes

Meet cnr Oasis and Limes Ave

No walk if wet. FREE

2017 Programme available online

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

1. Treat stone fruit for leaf curl and prune as soon as fruit is finished.
2. Harvest apples and pears as they ripen but before they get over ripe.
3. Treat brassica crops for white butterfly now as this is the time when they are at their peak numbers and will be most damaging.
4. Plant Winter brassicas.
5. Winter crops of silver beet, beet root and lettuce may be sown or planted now.
6. Remove the old fruiting canes from raspberries and other cane fruit as they finish fruiting.

7. Remove lower leaves from tomatoes to allow the higher fruit to ripen.

8. Prune back grapes to two leaves above the fruit to help ripening.

9. Thin out carrots and parsnips to allow roots to develop.

Lawns

1. Water weekly to keep grass growing.
2. Now is a good time to sow new lawns as seed will germinate quickly if it is kept well watered.
3. Give lawns a feed now.
4. Treat lawns for weeds once there is active growth of both grass and weeds.
5. Look out for any fungal disease and treat as needed.

Flower Garden

1. Stake, tie and de bud chrysanthemums
2. Remove spent flowers on dahlias, roses and other perennials to encourage more flowers.
3. Remove spent Summer annuals and prepare the ground for planting Winter and Spring annuals and bulbs.
4. Keep water up on shrubs, especially rhododendrons, daphne and camellias to help the bud development.
5. Sow seeds of pansy, violas and poppies now.
6. At the end of the month take cuttings of geranium, pelargoniums and fuchsias to have fresh plants next Spring.
7. Keep on weeding especially remove roots of any perennial weeds and grasses.

Landscape Design in the home garden

Kowhai Thompson's first landscape design instalment

Mass Planting

One way to create a 'tied together' look in your home garden is to add areas of mass plantings. This works both for brand new gardens and for established gardens. Think of purchasing 5 or 10 identical plants at a time of the same variety/colour at a garden centre. Many gardens develop in a piecemeal way over time and can look a bit disorganised.

Do you have a garden with lots of small shrubs? Grow one kind of ground cover underneath them and create a carpet of foliage to tie the look together. Good options are Ajuga, Veronica, or Alyssum. Or do you have a large collection of annuals? Grow a low hedge behind to frame them such as Teucrium, Escallonia or Camellia fairy blush. Or perhaps your garden is very low in height overall. You can plant some small trees, such as three Pseudopanax

arboreus – coastal five finger. Creating a more planned and purposeful look can be as simple as planting some mass groupings in your garden.

Introduction to Permaculture

What is permaculture? Developed by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the 1970s, permaculture is the creation of ecological systems and self maintaining habitats. One of the most popular design ideas is the food forest, a type of horticulture that involves intelligent landscape design. Vegetables, herbs, fruit trees and nut trees are grown in such a way that makes efficient use of space, and where possible support each others growth. For example mint can be grown in the shade under fruit trees. Permaculture gardens generally look more organic and rambling than a regular vegetable patch, but with the addition of some raised beds and creative

layout, a permaculture garden will have it's own charm. Furthermore a food forest will be teaming with food, insects and life. Children will love fossicking about for treats like cherry tomatoes and strawberries in this exciting space.

Another useful permaculture concept is the idea of garden zones. The landscape is divided into areas, with zone 1 being closest to the home. Permaculture recognises human nature, we are less likely to walk to the end of the garden to pick chives for a salad, especially if it's raining! But if the herb garden is right outside the kitchen door then we will use our herbs more. Therefore the kitchen garden is placed into zone 1. Read more about zones by following this link:

[www.permaculture.wikia.com/wiki/Zones_\(Permaculture\)](http://www.permaculture.wikia.com/wiki/Zones_(Permaculture))

BULB GROWING WORKSHOP

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd April 9am
Terra Viva Home & Garden
234 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

Make your own layered bulb planter for Spring flowering in our Bulb Growing Workshop.

Includes morning tea and take home planter. Price to be confirmed. Tickets available through the CHS office and online soon. Limited to 20 participants per workshop

AUTUMN GARDEN SHOW

Sponsored by Terra Viva

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 April 10am – 5pm
Ilex Room & Marquee, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Jointly presented by Canterbury Horticultural Society and Christchurch City Council Botanic Gardens. Great event for the whole family, incorporates the National Chrysanthemum Show.

Free Entry

Celebrating Autumn
vibrant flowers & plants from alpinas to bonsai
(International)
the National Chrysanthemum Show



2016 Autumn Garden Show

This years show promises to be as colourful and interesting as the last. Do come along and support this great FREE event at the Botanic Gardens next month, bring a picnic or enjoy the offerings from the Ilex cafe.

Members' Garden Visits

Discovering new gardens

It was a hot Summer "sun hat" day for our visits to the last of the season's "member" gardens.

Jo Snell's garden in Southampton Street is a wonderful example of clever design and plantings within a small area, with interesting touches of her and husband Kenny's artistic flare.

A mosaic couch is nestled in the herbaceous garden with a mosaic pathway representing the colours of the rainbow. The back area brings back memories of childhood days when most people had edible gardens.

Jo's garden is full of healthy edibles, including several tomato varieties, lots of vegetables and apples including a peasegoodnonsuch as well as a chookie run.

So clever with so much in a small area, the results have kept Jo busy bottling and preserving ready for Winter eating.

This garden was immaculately presented and testament to Jo's attention to detail and her London gardening experiences.

Di Madgin and husband Bill's rebuild in Porthills Road is now two years old and the newly established garden with most of the



Di Madgin enjoys showing her edibles to Members



Jo Snell's colourful artistic garden

plants and cuttings taken from their Red Zone property in River Road.

The new garden came with many challenges as the land had a heavy clay base, so with loads of gypsum, compost and hard work Di and Bill have created a more easy care garden with many old varieties of plants originally given to her by her mother years ago, thus keeping the memories alive.

Our visit finished with a lovely afternoon tea and talk by Di on the current City Council plans for the red zone restoration, a matter which she is very passionate about.

These visits have been an experience of interest and learning for which we are very grateful to the garden owners.

It is the CHS intention to include such visits in the tour program for the Spring and Summer so if you have a garden you would like to share with us please contact our office.

We would love to hear from you! **Gail Scrivener, Tour Manager**

TOUR DIARY 2017



Blooming Tasmania Flower & Garden Show
Launceston, Tasmania
Longer Break - 19 - 28 September 2017



Hurunui Spring Garden Tour
Day Tour Friday 27 October 2017
Register your interest now



Summer Gardens Awards Tour
Friday 6 October 2017 1-4pm
Car pool, no costs. Details to be advised at October
All About Gardening



Members' Spring Garden Visits
Late October & November 2017
Watch for flier later in the year



Geraldine Garden Tour
Day Tour Wednesday 1 November 2017
Register your interest now



NZ Flower & Garden Show
Auckland Mini Break Late November
Register your interest now

BLOOMING TASMANIA

Tasmania is My Garden

From Jane Teniswood, Chair Blooming Tasmania Association

Blooming Tasmania Association is a state-wide body working closely with Tourism Tasmania and others to promote garden tourism. At the recent international tourism conference, Dr. Richard Benfield, author of 'Garden Tourism', estimated that annually there are 120 million garden tourists worldwide and that if garden events, like garden festivals and garden shows were included along with commercially operated garden tours, "the number would reach more than 300 million". It is therefore clearly the world's number one industry.

The decision to initiate an annual **Blooming Tasmania Flower & Garden Festival** has led the organization in new

and exciting directions and to embrace the possibilities of expanding Tasmania's share of garden tourism.

The festival theme, "Tasmania is My Garden" provides an opportunity to connect those across the State who have a passion for promoting Tasmania, its gardens, wilderness and in exploring new ways of visiting the past, enjoying the present and imagining the future.

At the 2017 Blooming Tasmania Flower & Garden Festival you will meet friendly, passionate people who create different styles of gardens from heritage to wild native garden walks.

The CHS ten day tour to Tasmania takes place from the 19th - 29th September 2017. It will incorporate a day at the Festival in Launceston, as well as many beautiful garden visits in and around both Launceston and Hobart, these will be

profiled in our forthcoming newsletters, along with the history and culture of this unique Australian state.

Commandant William Champ's lifelong passion was plants and gardens. He even preferred them to beer! Port Arthur gardens are one of the most appealing features and a highlight for most visitors to Hobart. From cottage gardens that were reminders of "Home" to productive vegetable patches and orchards, to Avenues of Oaks and Elms, it is a landscape rich in history. "Something of this kind was much needed for the ladies of the settlement"

Please contact the CHS office to register for your brochure now.



Member of the Month

Kowhai Thompson

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

I was born in Christchurch and grew up in Sumner. Our house was on Clifton hill and backed onto Richmond Hill farm. My brother and I spent a lot of time building huts in the pine trees and catching tadpoles in the frog pond. We had a particularly good recipe for pine needle soup (inedible) that we would make on the leftover embers of dad's bonfires.

Where do you live now?

I am flatting in Sumner with the home owner, another flatmate and my cat Biscuit. We are a household of mature professionals so it is very civilised with the occasional delicious shared meal. We like to indulge in a cheese platter and wine at the end of the week too.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

My parents were both keen gardeners with an interest in landscape design. They created a native garden on Clifton Hill with Ngaio/Lancewoods before it was very trendy to do this. My dad was a landscape architect and my mum worked in nurseries. Mum and dad took us tramping and I loved being in the bush amongst the native bush, ferns, and mosses. I felt happier after a walk in nature. I like to bring this uplifting influence from nature, trees, plants and flowers into people's lives through beautiful landscape designs.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

I enjoy working with natives and edibles in particular. I studied permaculture when I was a teenager and was thrilled with the idea of growing fresh food at home. I got home from my course, dug up some of our family lawn and grew the most delicious potatoes. I've had the gardening bug ever since. This is channelled into my part time business. I create landscape plans for mainly



residential customers including decking, paving, and entertaining zones. I have particular skills with food forest design, where edibles are mixed throughout the landscape. I am also a geology/rock hound and so I enjoy matching the right plants with existing soil conditions.

What fascinates me about horticulture is that it is such an expansive field, one can never know everything!

What's your favourite plant and why?

Currently my favourite plant is Lophomyrtus – New Zealand myrtle. It has very pretty, shiny leaves and comes in several colours. It makes a lovely low hedge.

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

My most recent rewarding garden project was designing a koru garden in Opawa for a native loving client. There are glossy black flaxes to bring the birds and a bird bath in the centre of the spiral. It was satisfying because the client had a fantastic concept which I helped to refine into a balanced structure, and there is a mix of colours and textures which excites me.

When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined in November 2016. I want to make connections with other horticultural enthusiasts and see what happens from there. I am keen to both expand and to share my knowledge.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

I would like to share in the development of food growing knowledge, because I think it has so many rewards. Fresh berries foraged from the garden is fun for kids, fresh herbs taste amazing and are good for us, and a beautiful outdoor space soothes the mind that may be weary from hard work. I would like to be involved in bringing gardening to younger people in particular.

NEW LOOK CHS FLORAL DESIGN GROUP *See what they have been up to!*



The group had a great time at their first meeting last month. Lorraine, Zoe, Nyla, Coleen, Michele, Ray and Faye turned out some wonderful creations.

If you would like to have a go, do come and join them at the March meeting on **Thursday 16th**, all welcome!



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 Base and will be populated as sponsors join the programme. *Details of the programme may be found at www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship*