



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society

Newsletter No 235 May 2017

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CHS Centre: office hours 9am - 4pm

www.chsgardens.co.nz

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Congratulations to Rochelle Morgan whose garden (featured here) won the residential house category in the 5th annual Papanui/Innes Edible Garden Awards. Shirley Boys High (inset) won the school category. You can see the full results online at www.chsgardens.co.nz

June AAG

Monday 5th 7pm & Tuesday 6th 9.45am

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

Our main event in June is a presentation from schools involved in the **Oderings School Gardens Show**. The mini/interactive speaker is **Richard Smith on Preparing your Tools for the Pruning Season**. A tool sharpening service will be available. Bring cash for this!

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*

Please bring your own carrier bags to take home your own plant purchases limited bags supplied

what's on
next
month

From the President

A new era

As we settle down into a new operating mode after selling the Horticultural Hall and all the changes that go with a sale and move it requires all of us to think a little differently and creatively.

Foremost on my mind are two things.

- Quality in everything we do
- We meet the needs of existing and future members

Already since moving All About Gardening to the Christchurch Bridge Club some 20 new members have joined showing the value of quality venue and easy access and carparking. The big screen TV and sound system are great.

Our support base is growing. The Annual General Meeting was held in the lovely Harcourts Grenadier Auction Rooms, the Winter Speaker Series will also be held there - I hope to see you all there.

Liz Parder our front of Office person attends AAG so is able to help people on the spot or when she returns to the office. Our office has shifted to 153 Lichfield Street in the city thanks to CityCare. Our phone numbers are just the same. To save you time and energy use the telephone or send an email. Our Facebook page has almost 500 likes and HortTalk about 150.

Check our website, www.chsgardens.co.nz out for other details as well.

Our activities are much more focused on the community rather than our building now. This is the way it should be.

Let us know any ideas you have for CHS activities and we will see how we can include it.

Don't forget our Mission Statement is, "Connecting people to the art, science and practice of gardening and horticulture."

In short, connecting people and sharing knowledge. That is what we are about and what we should aspire to do better.

Alan Jolliffe, CHS President



CHS New Office Building
153 Lichfield Street

NEW CHS OFFICES

The CHS office has now moved to unit 2/153 Lichfield St. Our telephone number remains the same at 366 6937. Parking is available outside in the forecourt anywhere apart from directly outside Desktop Technology Services.

Landscape Design in the home garden

Tips # 2 from Kowhai Thompson

Permaculture - The Joys of Mulching

Now that the Summer is over it's a great time to put mulch on the garden. In permaculture, mulch is used regularly. So what is mulch and what does it do? Mulch refers to any organic material that is used as a top dressing on a garden bed. Some examples are compost, bark, sawdust, shredded leaves, pine needles, grass clippings, or peastraw.

Mulch fulfils a number of roles in a garden, it keeps moisture in, it breaks down and adds organic material to the soil, it attracts worms to the surface, it protects the soil from wind erosion and also helps keep weeds down. This time of year, Autumn leaves are in good supply and make a lovely mulch added in thick layers at the base of nutrient hungry plants such as blackcurrants and raspberries. You can also store them in a large bin over winter. They will break down slowly as a wonderful Spring mulch. Grass clippings can be great too, but only if the lawn was mown before seed set. It's helpful if there are



dandelions, plantain and clover in the lawn too which will also add extra nutrients. Do not mulch too closely around the stems of shrubs or this rich mulch may burn the plants. Permaculture is less concerned with visual perfection, but rather with effectiveness and growth results.

Hedge trimmings and other shrubby waste is an excellent mulch underneath hedges and trees. These woody bits if chopped into small pieces will be broken down by fungal soils. Fungi rich soil in return aids the growth of the trees and shrubs. Win win!

For the extra keen: to lift your mulching to the next level, try to balance the carbon and nitrogen. A carbon layer such as dead leaves or trigs will remove nitrogen from the soil briefly as it breaks down. Help prevent this by laying down dead leaves (high carbon) with fresh lawn clippings (high in nitrogen) or laying down peastraw (mostly carbon) over a layer of compost (high in nitrogen). Apply mulch 2 - 4 inches thick.

what's on
this
month

AAG MAY

Monday 1st 7pm & Tuesday 2nd 9.45am

Kate Marshall from Waimea Nurseries in Nelson is our main speaker. The mini/ interactive speaker is Elizabeth Peacock talking about dividing perennials and preparing them for winter. 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
Free to CHS Members, \$5 Non-members
Includes refreshments*

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

South Island National Show
Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 May
Hosted by the Gore Garden Club
James Cumming Wing
Ardwick St, Gore

Monday 15 May 7.30pm
Meet at the new CHS Offices
2/153 Lichfield Street
AGM

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

Wednesday 31 May 7.30pm
Location to be advised, ring the CHS office for details

AGM & Dinner
Please bring a meat, vegetable/salad dish or dessert to share and your own drink. Also crockery & cutlery. Tea & Coffee will be provided.

Landscape Design Trends for the Home Garden

Whether you are interested in garden trends or prefer to stick to tried and true, here are a few trends in landscape design to be aware of.

Go dark

There is a movement towards darker colours for garden structures such as fences, walls and sheds. This has spread from the trend for darker coloured homes. The greens and silvers of a garden appear to beautiful effect when contrasted against a dark background. Watch for charcoal, black, dark green and dark blue fences, pergolas and retaining walls.

Restrain yourself - simplicity of palette

With the business of life for many professional people there has emerged a tend for simple plant palettes in the home garden. One or two flower colours, and simplified foliage colours to create a restful look. Plantings are in groups.

Stay outside - outdoor rooms

The outdoor entertaining experience is important for New Zealanders, outdoor furniture ranges are expanding and including pizza ovens, soft furnishings that can be cleverly stored away,



entertaining courtyards with bar leaners, lighting, raised planter boxes, and wired music systems. People are looking for more luxury entertaining beyond the basic table and umbrella.

Grow food

Finally, edible landscaping has become mainstream. Watch for cranberry hedges, feijoa hedges, herbaceous borders with sage and chives, grapes clambering over pergolas, and beautifully designed raised beds for herbs and vegetables.

Edible gardening structures such as compost bins bee hives become more well designed. There is a trend towards foraging/ homesteading so watch for permaculture features such as chicken runs and mini orchards with dwarf fruit trees to spread.

Read more from Kowhai on our website under the Resources tab

Our Living Landscape Winter Speaker Series

Origins - where did I come from?

Our 2017 series begins at 7pm on Thursday 11 May with Sally Allison speaking on **Heritage Roses - history, literature and modern developments**.

Heritage Roses, older roses, any roses have been a big part of Sally's life since her early twenties starting in a garden on a bare hillside at Fernside. She is still in this same garden today which continues to change with maturity and continues to have even more roses many of which she has collected as cuttings, grown on and await identification.

A fascination of species and older roses and their history has led to her growing an immense number, many by cuttings, studying them, photographing them, writing about them and being invited to talk about them in many interesting places which apart from Australasia, includes Cambridge University, Huntington Botanic Garden California, Japan, Argentina, Uruguay and Bermuda.

Her love is not only roses but all plants and trees, and she is an avid gardener. 2016 was an exciting year for Sally receiving the NZ Rose Society Award and the World Rose Society Award which was presented at the World Rose Conference at Lyon France.

Tickets for the Winter Speaker Series can be purchased online, over the phone or at the CHS offices. \$10 non-members, \$5 students. Read more about the speakers online at www.chsgardens.co.nz/living-landscape-speaker-series

Thursday 11 May - Sally Allison
Heritage Roses - history, literature and modern developments

The Winter Speaker Series 2017 venue is the Harcourts Grenadier Auction Rooms, 98 Moorhouse Avenue. There is plenty of parking available.

The talk starts promptly at 7pm

Start time 7pm
free to members



Thursday 8 June - Krystina Hill
Heritage Fruit Trees - history, literature and modern developments

Krystina has been studying heritage fruit trees for fifteen years, and has established and now co-ordinates the Heritage Fruit Archive group since 2009.



FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Thursday 18 May 3pm
Meet at the new CHS Offices
2/153 Lichfield Street

Join tutor Helen Grantham for:

- Wiring
- Leaves, cones & flowers
- Making a simple button hole
- Carnations, gerbera flowers & foliage (ivy)

FLORAL ART CIRCLE

Thursday 18 May 1.30pm
Social Group Meeting
Oderings Cafe, Barrington

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 18 May 3:45 - 5pm
CHS Workshop Room
2/153 Lichfield Street

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 9 May 9.45am
New Prestons Subdivision
Meet Raranga St Reserve near Korowai St

Tuesday 23 May 9.45am
Ferrymead
Meet at school end on Gould Cres

No walk if wet. FREE

2017 Programme available online and from the CHS Office
www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS with Michael Coulter

Autumn is really with us the weather as been wet and windy which has effected the plants in our gardens causing an early end to some of our crops and also some damage to trees and shrubs. Repair damaged branches to trees and shrubs by cutting back to healthy branches close to a strong stem.

As leaves fall on pathways clear them off especially if it is wet as they can make paths slippery, also treat any moss on the paths for the same reason. The ground is now very moist but still warm, ideal for weeds to grow and good for grass germination this tells us to keep on top of the weeds, repair or sow lawns before the Winter weather gets too cold.

Caterpillars are attacking some of my Winter brassicas, to get a return they need to be sprayed.

Now is a good time to check on the soil PH to see if there is a need for an application of lime in the winter (a PH of 6.5 is ideal for the vegetable garden). I tested mine and found that the PH was too low in most of my raised beds which told me why I was disappointed with some of my vegetables this season.

Collect the leaves and incorporate with other garden waste to make good compost to dig in the gardens in the Spring.



AGM News

Thursday 20 April 2017

There was a good turnout of members at the AGM held on 20 April. The CHS rules were changed to increase the number of members eligible to stand by one so the range is now 4 to 6.

Former president Elizabeth Peacock who had been co-opted as immediate past president stood down. All other current Board members were re-elected and Alan Paterson, owner of Magic Moss, and former orchardist Richard Smith were also elected to the Board. Both have featured in previous issues as Member of the Month. Awards presented/announced were the **John Taylor Leadership Award** to Di Lucas, **Outstanding Horticulturalist Awards** to Michael Brown and Greg Byrnes, **Silver Service Award** to Isabel Clemens and **Kowhai** awards to Anne Warren, Ann Henderson, Peter King, Zoe West, Adele Wignall and Gail Scrivener.

Long serving (30 years) cleaner Rowena O'Carroll was presented with flowers and her service thankfully acknowledged.



Alan Jolliffe & Anne Warren



Alan Jolliffe & Michael Brown



Alan Jolliffe & Rowena O'Carroll

PETALS & PRICKLES ROSE WORKSHOP

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th June 4pm
Terra Viva Home & Garden
234 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

Join us for an informative workshop on how to grow the best looking roses in town. Presented by CHS President Alan Jolliffe.

Tickets \$30
Includes refreshments and a \$10 Terra Viva Voucher. Available from the CHS office and online.

MID WINTER LUNCH

Saturday 17 June 12 noon
Show Gate Lounge, Riccarton Raceway

Guest Speaker Janetta Skiba
Medical Co-ordinator
Koru Care, Christchurch

Tickets: \$45
Includes 3 course buffet lunch / cash bar
Available now from the CHS office, AAG or online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

More details to follow in June newsletter.

MARGARET WATLING FLORAL DEMONSTRATION

Thursday 9th November 2017
Main Auditorium, The Piano
156 Armagh Street

Please make a diary note now for this feature event. We are delighted to confirm floral artists Shirley Russ and Annette Waller.

More details in coming newsletters.



Fruit & Vegetable Garden

1. Harvest the last of the apple and pears
2. Treat stone fruit with copper sprays for fungal diseases
3. Prune raspberries, gooseberries and blackcurrants
4. Sow green crops on bare ground
5. Prepare soil for new strawberry plants
6. Remove any diseased tomato plants and dispose them - do not compost
7. Sow broadbeans

Flower Garden

1. Remove the last of the Summer annuals
2. Plant the last of the Spring bulbs
3. Spring annuals can still be planted
4. Cut back perennials as they finish

flowering

5. Take cuttings of geraniums/ pelargoniums before the frosts start
6. Trim back any Summer growth from trees or shrubs that over hang paths, drives, doorways or windows
7. Lift dahlia tubers once the tops have died off and store in a cool dry place.

Lawns

1. Catch grass and mow each week until the grass stops growing
2. Treat for weeds
3. Remove thatch by raking up the thick growth
4. Feed and treat for moss
5. Keep fallen leaves off the grass, remove before mowing is usually enough

Blooming Tasmania Tour

Day 9, 27 September

The Blooming Tasmania & Launceston Flower Show *Longer Break* runs from 19 – 29 September 2017. A fully guided tour with 11 days of amazing garden visits, 4 star accommodation, return airfares and most meals.

Brochure available from our website: www.chsgardens.co.nz

Our "Blooming Tasmania" adventure offers Tasmania's unique garden attractions punctuated by its amazing scenery, fascinating history and incredible food and wine experiences.

As an island set in the Southern Ocean immediately south of the Australian continent, Tasmania enjoys one of the world's most productive climates.

From the arrival of the first European settlers early in the nineteenth century, incredible gardens have been developed in this southern paradise. Most plants can be grown here with relative ease, especially those of cool temperate origin.

Within this relatively small island lies an enormous diversity of micro-climates, including rugged mountains and forests, coastal plains and river valleys. Most regions enjoy fertile soils, reliable rainfall, and none of the extremes of temperature that limit many gardens around the world.

Every visitor to Tasmania will have their own preferences so we will seek to offer a diverse range of options for your particular enjoyment.

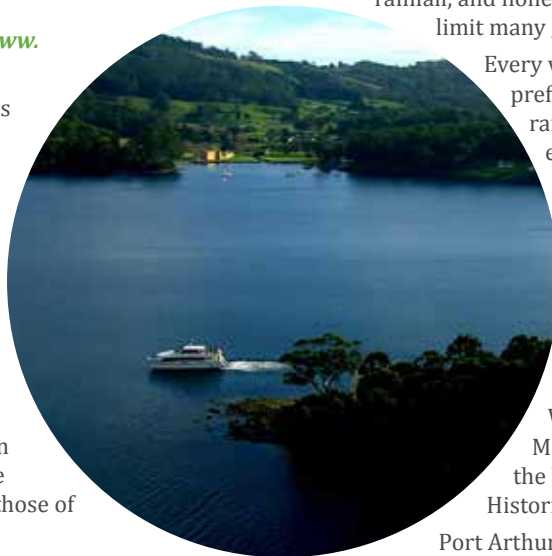
You will see a number of gardens as well as the Blooming Tasmania garden show in Launceston and experience a variety of tours and walks and visits to specialist growers and nurseries.

A glimpse of our itinerary

DAY 9: Wednesday 27 September

We will travel via Sorell Causeway and Midway Point for a full day tour to visit the World Heritage-listed Port Arthur Historic Site on the Tasman Peninsula.

Port Arthur is Australia's most intact and evocative



TOUR DIARY 2017



Blooming Tasmania & Launceston Flower Show

*Longer Break - 19 - 29 September 2017
\$4,799 per person. Brochure available now*



Hurunui Spring Garden Tour

*Day Tour Friday 27 October 2017
Register your interest now*



Spring 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*

convict site, and an essential destination on our tour of Tasmania. The Historic Site has over 30 buildings, ruins and restored period homes and is set in 40 hectares of landscaped grounds.

We will allow plenty of time to fully experience all that Port Arthur has to offer and enjoy a guided walk and short cruise to the Isle of the Dead, with time to explore the ruins or the restored gardens.

Come and join us on this unique Tasmanian experience there are still seats available.

For more details please contact the office or Gail directly on mob: 0274 892 906.



Member of the Month

Dylan Parker

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

I was born in Timaru and my family lived in Fairlie until I was 5, then we moved to the Marlborough Sounds where my parents worked at the Outward Bound School. After being in the Sounds for 8 years my family moved to Amberley and I attended Hurunui College for the remainder of my schooling.

Where do you live now?

I now live in Christchurch with my wife Kathryn and our cat Lupin.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

I believe it was growing up at Outward Bound I remember spending days out playing in the orchard that was at the end of our driveway. When I was off with my friends in the forest building huts I remember loving growing food. I would grow small gardens of radish near the huts we would build. Also both my paternal and maternal grandparents were fantastic gardeners. Dad's parents had a biodynamic farm in Fairlie where they grew food for The Sunflower Centre, a wholefoods cafe they owned. I remember working there picking onions from out in the fields one summer and hanging them to dry in the sheds. My mum's dad always grew the best tomatoes and strawberries.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

I am extremely passionate about permaculture and perennial food systems, intensive crop gardens, mushroom cultivation, native revegetation, foraging and wild foods, heritage seed preservation. I am also really interested in learning woodland management and coppicing but have not been able to find anyone to learn from yet.



What's your favourite plant and why?

I may have to pick a couple. I am a sucker for weird and interesting pumpkins there is just so much you can do with them and my wife makes fantastic pumpkin pie. I am a huge fan of sweet chestnut trees I remember collecting the nuts as a family and taking them home to roast.

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

I am just finishing up working for Cultivate Christchurch and it has been both challenging and rewarding. It has been challenging getting the farm work done while trying to keep people engaged and interested in what they are doing, but so rewarding watching other young people really get involved in gardening and where their food comes from.

When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined CHS very recently to get to know and learn from other gardeners.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

I see the future of the CHS as a sharing of knowledge as there is so much knowledge in its members and knowledge that I feel is becoming more and more valuable with the growth of local food movements and people's general interest in gardening. I also feel that the CHS is where people are going to look to for that knowledge and I want to be a part of that so I can share what I know and am truly passionate about.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Helleborus Petticoat White Picotee

A new very exciting hellebore hybrid for Oderings in 2017.

Bred in England, its delicate maroon-purple edging on the pure white flowers makes for a very attractive and contrasting flower. With limited numbers available, you may want to make your way in store soon to ensure you don't miss out.

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

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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*