



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 240 October 2017

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2017 Daffodil Show

Congratulations to Trevor Rollinson on his beautiful bloom, 'Showdown' which received Best in Show and (his first) Premier Bloom award at last month's Daffodil Show.



WHAT'S ON
NEXT
MONTH

NOVEMBER AAG

Monday 6th 7pm & Tuesday 7th 9.45am

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

Our confirmed speaker is Hamish Fig from Fig landscapes, with some great advice and tips for home landscaping.

Also in the programme, Gardening half hour
Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

Free to CHS Members
\$5 non-members
Includes tea, coffee and refreshments.
No sales table until further notice

NEVER MISS AN AAG SESSION

Sign up with your mobile number to receive TXT alerts to all AAG sessions.

Simply text **CHS** followed by your name to the number **226** and you'll be added to our list.

You can also email: office@chsgardens.co.nz or call us on: (03) 366 6937 with your mobile telephone number.

FROM THE PRESIDENT Springtime

Spring has really started well this year and growth is great in the garden.

The CHS continues to plan and put on activities and events for you so please read this newsletter to find out more.

Many of you visited the NZ Alpine Garden Society, Rhododendron Society and CHS Combined Spring Show last month. It was great. Thanks to all involved in putting it on.

Take advantage of the Oderings special evening for members on 10 October and visit the nursery and garden centre at Stourbridge Street from 4.30pm onwards. Oderings would love to see you there. I hear there are some special bargains going as well.

Do not forget All About Gardening. Recently over 100 people attended the morning session and 75 at night. It's a great place to get advice, meet other gardeners and exchange ideas.

We will have a presence at the A & P Show and are planning the Autumn show in the Botanic Gardens. Plenty of action.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with it all.

www.facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety

Alan Jolliffe
CHS President

To kick off National Gardening Week, from 1st - 13th October Yates will be giving a free packet of seeds to everyone who registers online at www.yates.co.nz/nationalgardeningweek



ROIMATA FOOD COMMONS

Case Study

The CHS is a member of the Food Resilience Network (Edible Canterbury) which held its AGM recently. The annual report featured the Roimata Food Commons project, initiated by Michael Reynolds, which will be of interest to many CHS members.

Roimata Food Commons is a project to activate public space with regenerative native planting, a communal orchard and vegetable production. Interwoven into these environmental and food resilience goals is the aim to bring community together to strengthen our sense of community in our neighbourhood. fb.com/roimatafoodcommons

2016/17 Highlight - Initiating the project! My first meeting was with the chairperson of the local community board and CCC staff. Within 5 mins the project was a go. I then had to embark on a process of engaging the community to build a desire and a team around the project. That happened too. The positive energy flow around this project is allowing it to be strong and grow.

One of the central drivers for this project is to give our community access to free, high health food and for it to operate in a environment that is undergoing a process of native regeneration. It is super important to us to make that commitment to local biodiversity and the health of our awa, Opawaho. We have built strong connections with CCC, ECan and FRN, and now have relationships with our food resilient projects in Christchurch and beyond. Our group has evolved and expanded over the 6 months it has been active and we continue to invite people into the decision making and visioning process to invest their energy and passion.



WHAT'S ON
THIS
MONTH

OCTOBER AAG

Mon 2nd 7pm & Tue 3rd 9.45am

At the time of printing this month's speakers are still to be confirmed. Keep an eye on our website and facebook pages for an update.

Our Gardening half hour contributors are Pamela Smith, Dave Adams and Richard Smith.

Free to members, \$5 non-members
Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Plenty of Parking available

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

Saturday 7 October 1.30pm
Coulter's, 183 Weston Road
Potting on plants for the plant sale

Monday 16 October 7.30pm
CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street
General cultural notes, plant nutrition and fertilisers. Plant sale arrangements

Saturday 21 October 9am - 2pm
Plant Sale
St Peters Church Grounds
Church Corner

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 3 October 12pm
Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Wednesday 18 October 3pm
CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street
Focus on: Freestyle Arrangement;
Halloween; Incorporating Vegetables (Pumpkins, Cabbage etc.)
Orange, Red, & Brown Flowers

CONSERVATION WEEK

14 - 22 October 2017

Friday 13 October 10.30am - 12pm
Mt Thomas - Beech Forest Botanical Discovery

Firstly as part of the Breeze Walking Festival DOC is providing a short guided walk through Mt Thomas with our local plant enthusiast - lots of stopping and talking about plants and on the lower slopes (ie: not too arduous). Bookings required, limited to 15.

Wednesday 18 October 2017 10.30am - 2.30pm
Conservation Week event - Transforming Enys Reserve back into a grey shrubland

Enys Scientific Reserve is about 1 km east of Castle Hill village. It is one of only two rare ecosystems where hebe armstrongii occur naturally in the wild and is also a significant natural habitat for NZ bog pine. We aim to transform this 4 ha reserve back into the grey shrubland it was 100 years ago through planting out coprosmas, matagouri, Canterbury daisy and red tussock. As part of Conservation Week we'd like to extend an



invitation to 10-20 horticultural enthusiast volunteers to be part of this long-term restoration project. We're hoping through working with Canterbury Horticultural Society that people can car pool to this site. There is a hare-proof fence to climb over to get into the reserve but we'll arrange step ladders.

Barbeque lunch and tea/coffee/fruit juice provided.
Limited to 20 people. For further information or to volunteer please contact:

Sarah Ensor
Community Ranger, DOC North Canterbury
Tel: (03) 313 0820 Email: sensor@doc.govt.nz

ODERINGS MEMBERS EVENING

Tuesday 10 October 4.30pm - 6pm **Stourbridge Street only**

Start thinking about your Summer garden!

Once again Oderings Garden Centre (Stourbridge St) are generously hosting a special "one off" evening for CHS members where everything except items already discounted will be reduced by 20%. Knowledgeable Oderings staff will be on hand to provide assistance and advice.

Stock up on potting compost. Treat yourself or a friend to some new tools. And don't forget the plants - Indoor, outdoor, roses, shrubs, bedding, even trees. And there is so much more - boots, shoes, brollies, candles, you could even get some early Christmas gifts?

Entry by CHS Membership Card - if you have misplaced your card, replacements can be ordered and collected from the CHS office 10am-3pm, Monday to Friday (or at the door on the day). Please call Liz on 366 6937 or email: office@chsgardens.co.nz.

* Excludes: Vouchers/Gift Cards, Trulux Glass Houses, Bee, butterfly, ladybird houses and colonies and any Current Sale Items.



Open just for Members - 1½ hours!

Oderings, Stourbridge Street Spreydon - **20% Off Everything**

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 10 October 9.45am

Hagley Park

Meet in Armagh St car park near Tea Kiosk bridge

Tuesday 24 October 9.45am

Kaiapoi

Meet cnr Fairweather/Cumberland Cre
No walk if wet. FREE

2017 Programme available online and from the CHS Office

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

Wednesday 25 October 7.30pm

St Martins Community Centre
122 Wilsons Road

Bob Crowder, retired from Lincoln University, will answer our question: "The Origins of Organics and how does someone get into it?"

Plenty of Parking available.

Please bring your own cup for a drink at supertime.

PHOTOGRAPHY TALK

Thursday 5 October 8pm

Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville St

The New Zealand Alpine Garden Society invites you to an evening with Chris Gardner talking about his latest book 'Flora of the Silk Road' and nature photography.

\$2 entry, includes supper

For more information contact Hamish Brown

Tel: 960 9490 or mob: 027 226 1166

Hamish.Brown@plantandfood.co.nz

TIME TO RENEW *Subs Reminder*

It is that time of year again and Members subscriptions will soon be due for 2018.

Liz will be sending out invoices to all current Members later this month.

These can be paid by Direct Credit into the CHS Bank account - details are on the invoice - PLEASE put your name and invoice number on the payment.

Payment can also be made by Credit Card or Eftpos at the CHS office, 2/153 Lichfield Street - between 10am -3pm.

If you are unable to visit the office a Credit Card payment can be made over the phone.

Please note if you haven't been to the CHS office we do have stairs.

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*



This Spring has been very enjoyable with an outstanding display of blossoming from flowering cherries, magnolias and kowhai.

This month is one of the busiest times in the garden as we get ready for the coming growing season of Summer. Much of what we do now determines the success of the garden whether it be flowers, fruit or vegetables.

We must prepare the garden before planting - from digging in compost to adding fertilisers to weeding (especially perennial weeds).

Remember to check hoses, sprinklers and irrigation systems before Summer planting is started.

To get the best results we do not need to be in too much of a hurry to plant or sow the plants that need warmth to grow, these are better left until the end of the month when the soil is warmer and the weather more settled.

10:00am
October 7th & 8th
Terra Viva Home & Garden

\$39pp

Purchase tickets at Terra Viva.
15 people per session only.
Ages 7-14.



MAKE YOUR OWN Scarecrow

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 19 October 3:45 - 5pm
CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

CANTERBURY A & P SHOW

Wednesday 15 - Friday 17 November
Canterbury Agricultural Park

Do come and visit the CHS stand in the
Food & Wine tent.

FLOWERWORKS

Floral designers Shirley
Russ & Annette Waller
share their passion for
flowers in Flowerworks
- one evening, two
demonstrations, one
great experience!



Thursday 9 November 7pm

The Piano, Centre for
Music and the Arts

Tickets: \$40

On sale now

www.chsgardens.co.nz

tel: (03) 366 6937

OCTOBER TASKS AROUND THE GARDEN

Fruit and Vegetable Garden

1. Plant leafy crops for successive harvesting.
2. Sow seeds of carrots, parsnips, leeks, onions and radishes.
3. Later in the month sow beans and sweet corn and other warm loving crops.
4. Plant potatoes and yams.
5. Plant tomatoes and peppers in sheltered parts of the garden.
6. As fruit trees come into leaf and after blossom set check for pest and disease and treat if needed.
7. Keep early plantings well weeded.

Flower Garden

1. Prune after flowering shrubs and trees.
2. Remove dead flowers from Spring bulbs.
3. Prepare ground for Summer bedding plants.
4. Apply mulch around shrubs to suppress weeds and conserve water.
5. Tidy up perennials left in the ground.
6. Check roses for pest and disease and treat if needed.
7. Prune back to strong growth fuchsias to promote flowering.

Lawns

1. Mow and catch grass every week during this rapid growth of Spring.
2. Treat for weeds and moss.
3. Apply fertiliser.
4. Repair any damage caused over Winter and aerate to improve drainage.



GERALDINE DAY TOUR

Wednesday 1 November 2017



Geraldine is well known for growing beautiful rhododendrons and our Spring tour to the area includes three garden visits, one of which is to the home of fellow CHS members Ros & Phillip Burdon.

Their garden 'Capricorns' is a large informal garden of approximately five acres. Trees are the main feature, and have been continuously planted since 1939 when the property was originally purchased as a bare paddock.

There are now many deciduous trees including a fine copper beech, large oaks and limes and a red chestnut that was almost destroyed in storms in the 1970s but is now recovered to an elegant size. Other trees include a wonderful Wellingtonia, an enormous eucalyptus, maples and dogwoods.

Another tree to view is the prehistoric Australian wollemi pine, a rare and ancient species. The Burdon's were given the tree three seasons ago and it has survived frosts, rain, drought and heat-waves and still seems to thrive.

The garden has a natural creek flowing through it, diverting into a large pond in which is a sculpture by Christchurch sculptor Andrew Drummond, one of three sculptures in the garden, all of which are kinetic.

There are lots of irises and azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous which give the

garden a lovely scent along with many other Spring flowers including crocuses and bluebells.

White evergreen azaleas line the drive with prunus yukon above them and old oaks and rhododendrons behind them.

There will be plenty to see, with everything in its fresh Spring glory. The flower beds should be full of paeonies, roses, and hopefully delphiniums too. Rhododendrons will also be in flower all around the garden!

Ros describes the garden as "a very personal thing and it changes all the time. A work in progress which will never be completed or perfect." Her aim is to give the garden year-round interest and make it as easy care as possible.



Seats are still available on what promises to be a most interesting and fun day tour.

\$135 per person, includes 4 star coach, morning tea and a boxed lunch.

Download the registration form from the www.chsgardens.co.nz, collect one from the office or at October All About Gardening 2nd & 3rd October.

TOUR DIARY 2017



Hurunui Spring Garden Tour
Day Tour with four gardens
Friday 27 October 2017 - \$130 **book now**



Members' Spring Garden Visits
Wednesday 11 October, Fendalton
Gardens of Adrienne Moore and Ruth Benson
\$10 Members, **register now pay on the day**



Geraldine Garden Tour
Day Tour with three gardens
Wednesday 1 November 2017 - \$135 **book now**



Wigram Lions Charity Christchurch Garden Tour
Day Tour with 7 gardens
Saturday 25 or Sunday 26 November - \$95
Includes morning tea, entrance, coach & lunch at Oderings Secret Garden Cafe **book now**



Autumn Colours in Central Otago Short Break early
April, after Easter 2018
Register your interest now



Hampton Court Flower Show & English Gardens
Longer Break June 2018
Register your interest now

PLANT SALE

Saturday 21 October 9am - 2pm

Don't miss this annual plant sale in the grounds of St Peters Church, Church Corner.

Held in conjunction with the Dahlia Club there will be Chrysanthemum Plants and Dahlia Tubers for sale. \$4 each or three for \$10.

Cash only.

Hope to see you there.



Michael Coulter - hard at work labelling up!



Seedlings - 21 September Growing up!

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Roger & Gaynor Allen

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

Gaynor was born in Timaru, was educated and worked there until 1967 when Roger and she married. Roger was born in Motueka, educated in Dunedin, and moved to Timaru. We have been married 50 years in October, and wherever we shift to in the future, will include a garden, but not as big as the present one.

Where do you live now?

We live in Bowenvale Avenue, in Christchurch. For the first 24 years in Christchurch we lived in Spreydon. In 1993 we moved to Bowenvale Avenue, into a ¼ acre established section, where we had a small hydroponic glasshouse where we grew tomatoes and basil. In 2007 when we had both retired, we purchased a section further down on the other side of Bowenvale Ave to get the sun earlier.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

Both of our parents, and grandparents were keen and experienced gardeners and from them we began an interest and appreciation of gardening. In those days the growing and harvesting of vegetables was almost expected, the flower garden often when you had time. The style and choices of plants changes over the decades, and Gaynor became interested in perennials and woodland type plants. Along with gardening friends, would regularly visit the gardens open to the public. Gaynor also enjoys floral art, and so flowers that would survive in a vase were amongst the plants of choice. Roger's grandfather was a farmer in Riwaka, and was involved in the growing and harvesting of hops and tobacco.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

Our present section is 749 sq m. We both enjoyed the challenge of landscaping a new garden 10 years ago, and choosing our favourite plants. We have a small but good producing vegetable plot, and two raised gardens, one for lettuces and peppers, and one for strawberries. We do not use any sprays for vegetable growing, and indeed notice the different taste of freshly harvested vegetables against those from the supermarket. We have an espaliered apple tree producing three different apple varieties. Gooseberry, blackcurrant, blueberry bushes, feijoa and blackboy peach



trees, plus the usual plot of rhubarb, this fruit enjoying a new appreciation over recent years. We grow a few tomatoes in pots in Summer, along with a Meyer lemon, Tahitian and Kaffir lime bushes,

What's your favourite plant and why?

While the beauty of each season always bring surprises and pleasure. Gaynor's favourite plants would include trilliums, hellebores, paeonies, roses, and the small treasures that pop up in early spring. Roger's favoured plants are rhododendron and camellias. The trees we have planted, are mostly deciduous, and we find pleasure in seeing the fresh new leaves appear, the blossom and then further brighten the garden with their changing autumn colours.

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

This last garden has been a challenge to get the soil to its present friable healthy stage. Our sub division was checked for any chemical that had been used in this area and may have been residual in the soil. During this process the soil was turned over and then a mix of poorer quality soil and stones was what we were left with. This has taken trailer loads of organic and animal manure and gypsum to improve the soil condition. More recently we have found that using coir bricks made from coconut fibre, along with a few teaspoons of seaweed liquid added to water the coir bricks are soaked in, makes a difference also. This has given us excellent results.

When did you join the CHS and why?

We joined the CHS in 2009, to enjoy and share the passion of gardening with other like minded folk, and to increase our knowledge of plants and horticulture.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

The involvement and encouragement of the CHS in the Gardening in Schools project is so worthwhile with its focus on growing vegetables and gardening generally. It is an excellent start for the younger generation to build on and continue. We would like to see the young home owners, younger members keen to build on their garden knowledge, encouraged to join the CHS.



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