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

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.

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.
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 an 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.

**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
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.
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.

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.

MAKE YOUR OWN
Scarecrow

TERRA VIVA WITH CANTERBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
10:00am
October 7th & 8th
Terra Viva Home & Garden
$39pp
Purchase tickets at Terra Viva.
15 people per session only.
Ages 7-14.

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

10:00am
October 7th & 8th
Terra Viva Home & Garden
$39pp
Purchase tickets at Terra Viva.
15 people per session only.
Ages 7-14.

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
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 peonies, 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.
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