

Canterbury Horticultural Society Newsletter No 241 November **2017**

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FLOWERWORKS THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER - TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!

We hope you can join us for this spectacular highlight event of the year!

Thursday 9 November 7pm Main Auditorium, The Piano Centre for Music and the Arts, 156 <u>Armagh Street</u>

If you haven't already purchased tickets you can do so on the CHS Website for just \$40 per person.

Floral designers Shirley Russ & Annette Waller share their passion for flowers in Flowerworks – one evening, two demonstrations, one great experience! Flowerworks is the Society's Margaret Watling Memorial Demonstration.

Margaret Watling, floral artist, visionary and determined champion of the Canterbury Horticultural Society believed all should be able to share in the beauty of flowers.

She foresaw this through their presentation in design, seen at shows, public exhibitions, demonstrations and learning opportunities. Her financial support to the Canterbury Horticultural Society has ensured her spirit and passion for flowers has continued to this day.

WHAT'S ON NEXT MONTH

DECEMBER AAG

Monday 4th 7pm & Tuesday 5th 9.45am

Christmas themed supper and morning tea to celebrate the last AAG of 2017

Oderings Christmas Wreath Demonstration

Pamela Smith demonstrates in a practical, step-by-step way how to construct your own Christmas wreath.

Also in the programme, Gardening half hour

Christchurch Bridge Club 21 Nova Place

Free to CHS Members \$5 non-members

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Can all members who had or have a 'Clear' or 'Vodafone' account and have changed email addresses, please send us your updated email address.

Email office@chsgardens.co.nz or ring Liz Parder on tel: 366 6937.

Thanks for keeping us up-to-date!

Funding our Projects

As we expand the range and diversity of our horticultural and gardening events it's important to recognise the role sponsors and funders have in providing support – either in cash or "in kind".

It's well known that sourcing "in kind" support, ie direct provision of goods or services, is much easier to secure than cash. Such "in kind" support is only of value however if the goods or services formed an integral part of an activity that the CHS would have had to purchase anyway.

Oderings is a Platinum level sponsor of the CHS and this has taken the form of providing credit to enable schools participating in the Oderings School Gardens Show to purchase plants and materials to be used in their exhibits. Oderings has also provided prizes for category winners in our Spring & Summer Garden Awards.

This year there has been a change in emphasis. There is now an opportunity for schools who are trying to make a school garden to benefit from Oderings expertise. It will involve monthly visits from an Oderings expert and a mentor from the CHS. Oderings have planned a year of garden activities which will help to establish a school garden while educating the children in how to care for plants.

In addition to these changes Kiwicare will support this project with a Gold level sponsorship of \$5000 worth of Kiwicare products! This will add considerable extra value to the schools and we warmly welcome Kiwicare to the CHS fold.

Further support has been garnered for the 2018 Oderings School Gardens Show in the form of a \$5000 grant from the Christchurch City Council's "Strengthening Communities" fund. Another cash contribution to CHS activities is a \$4500 grant from Rātā Foundation to support our Orchards in Schools project.

I urge all CHS members to show their appreciation of our sponsors by using their products and even writing to these organisations to thank them personally for their support of the CHS.

TULIP FEVER Five double passes to this charming film to give-away!

Dive into the historical world of the Amsterdam tulip trade and watch love blossom as "Tulip Fever" hits NZ cinemas.

To enter the draw for one of five double passes complete this short tulip-inspired quiz. Either email us your answers (with your name and address) or complete the competition on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety

- 1. What is the origin of the name tulip?
- 2. Which singer made the song "Tulips from Amsterdam" famous?
- 3. What event inspired Alexander Dumas to write the book "The Black Tulip"?
- 4. Where in the wild would I find the species Tulipa kaufmania?
- 5. Where in New Zealand is an annual Tulip Festival held?

Email your answers to *office@chsgardens.co.nz* Entries close Friday 17 November



NOVEMBER AAG

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

"Yates sign up today

SPRING

CHALLENGE

Mon 6th 7pm & Tue 7th 9.45am

Our speakers this month are **Roger Morgan** from Ready Lawn on *Lawn Care – from installation to maintenance* and **Hamish Fig** from Fig landscapes with *Trends in Home Landscaping*.

Also in the programme, Gardening half hour.

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

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

Monday 20 November 7.30pm CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street General cultural notes, plant nutrition and fertilisers. Plant sale arrangements

Monday 11 December 7pm Coulter's, 183 Weston Road Bring small festive plate for supper

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 7 November 12pm Christchurch Bridge Club 21 Nova Place

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Wednesday 15 November 3pm CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

Focus on: Vases arrangements, Old fashioned theme, Vases, Urns & Bottles, Blue tones & White Flowers

Gardeners from all over the country are sharing their Spring gardening journeys creating wonderful vegetable gardens and abundant harvests.

GET INVOLVED! THERE ARE OVER \$4000 OF PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

Open to all gardeners with categories for individuals, children, schools and community gardens. This is a blogging competition, that runs until the 10th of December 2017

Each entry receives a packet of seeds from the new Yates Spring range.



Also keep a look out on our Facebook page for a Yates 5-pack seed give-away for CHS Members. Share the post on your own page and mention the Yates Spring Vegie Challenge and one lucky Member will receive a 5-pack of Yates seeds. Just message us when you've done it - *info@chsgardens.co.nz*

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CHS MEMBERSHIP Great discounts and reminders for members!

The turnout at the October Oderings Shopping Night was fantastic and it looked like many members were enjoying some quality purchases.

This is just one of the benefits on offer to CHS Members throughout the year.

The following organisations now offer a discount when you present your current membership card. We hope you can take advantage of this offer, especially in time for Christmas.

Allwood Nurseries 20% Portstone Garden Centre 15% Garden Makers 10% Treetech 10% Intelligro 10% Readylawn 10% Magic Moss 10% Oderings Members Night 20% off once a year

KEEP IN THE KNOW

You may be familiar with text alerts - those handy reminders from the dentist and hairdresser that arrive in your phone as a message (usually the day before).

The CHS has been trialling these for the last few months and are now using them more frequently. Many of our newer members are automatically kept up-to-date this way about AAG speakers, events and competitions.

If you haven't already, now is a great time to sign up with your mobile number, its free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

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 number.

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 14 November 9.45am Lincoln - Meet Reserve, Ryelands Drive near Kajens Court

Tuesday 28 November 9.45am Halswell - Meet corner Milnes Road and William Brittan Avenue

No walk if wet. FREE

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

CANTERBURY A & P SHOW

Wednesday 15 - Friday 17 November Canterbury Agricultural Park Do come and visit the CHS stand in the Food & Wine tent.

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 16 November 3:45 - 5pm CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

Wednesday 29 November 7.30pm St Martins Community Centre 122 Wilsons Road

Pot Luck Tea and Bumper Session of: *What to do in the Vegetable Garden over the Summer season.*

We will also have our regular sales table. Items for sale very welcome. Plenty of parking, please bring your own cup for a drink at supper-time.

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS with Michael Coulter

November is the month that sees the season change from Spring to Summer so many of the tasks that we need to do will determine the success we will have this growing season.

The weather has given plenty of moisture in the soil but as the temperatures warm up some irrigation may be needed, but only to the top few millimetres around the root zone of plants.

With warmth and moisture a lot of vigorous growth has been made by trees and shrubs this year so we may need to do some pruning to keep them in shape away from paths, windows and overhead wires.

We are also responsible to keep plants clear of our outside footpaths so that people can use the pathways without the danger of harm from over hanging branches.

November is also the month when roses are at their best, this year they are blooming earlier so watch out for any pest and disease that may be around and also dead head spent blooms to encourage more blooms.

Summer annuals and some perennials (dahlias and chrysanthemums especially) should be planted now. In the vegetable garden all the Summer crops can be planted or sown.

The lawns have been growing very lush this Spring but as this month continues we will see that the grass will start to get storky as it begins to flower, so for one or two cuts this month we may need to cut the grass little lower than usual.

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP The latest vine-inspired creations



COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Saturday 4 November 10-11.15am Lincoln Envirotown Community Gardens James Street (rear of maternity hospital) Presented by Terry Windle, retired farmer and mentor for the Lincoln Envirotown Community garden.

Contact: **Ruth Wood**, Lincoln Community Gardens Coordinator. Tel: 325 2193 *ruth.wood@xtra.co.nz. Gold coin donation appreciated*

The workshop will focus on:

- Which animal manures and other materials make great compost?
- 2. How to construct a compost heap
- 3. Things to avoid, e.g. 'bad' weeds
- Adding extra fertiliser, lime etc.
- 5. Moisture requirements

Terry will also instruct participants about suitable watering systems for raised beds and fruit tree areas. CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

WREATH WORKSHOP
Wed 29 November 5.30pm
Terra Viva Home & Garden
Festive workshop with nibbles
wine. Watch our facebook
page for more details

NOVEMBER TASKS AROUND THE GARDEN

Fruit and Vegetable Garden

- Plant out tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, pumpkins, zucchini and eggplants in full sun
- 2. Plant potatoes
- 3. Plant Summer greens for continuous cutting
- 4. Feed citrus
- 5. Strawberries will start to ripen now, keep up moisture and liquid feeds for continuous cropping
- 6. Treat apples and pears for codling month once petal fall is complete
- 7. Sow beans, carrots, parsnips and peas
- 8. Keep onions and garlic weed free

Flower Garden

- 1. Plant out begonias, dahlias, gladiola and chrysanthemums
- 2. Plant Summer annuals
- 3. Mulch around the garden to keep down weeds and conserve moisture
- 4. Prune flowering shrubs as they finish their flowering
- 5. Remove spent foliage from daffodils at the end of the month
- Plant up pots of annuals to give colour around paths, patios and other areas were there is not a garden

Lawns

- 1. Feed lawns
- 2. Treat for grass grub and porina
- 3. Treat for weeds and moss
- 4. Mow each week during rapid growth
- 5. Finish any repairs before the weather gets too hot



BLOOMING TASMANIA *Tour Report from June Lowery*

In September, 23 excited members of the CHS departed Christchurch for Launceston, Tasmania.

Our hotel for the first five nights was in downtown Launceston, which has some lovely historic sandstone buildings dating back to the early 1800's.

The next morning was a chilly start when we headed west towards the Great Western Tiers. We visited four very different large properties; Old Wesley Dale an 1829 historic property was amazing.

On our third day we visited Cataract Gorge and Georgetown where we were hosted by the local garden club and were fortunate enough to visit one of their members gardens.

On day four we enjoyed the very large World Heritage Woolmers Estate, which has the outstanding National Rose Garden.

Our last day in Launceston was spent at the Blooming Tasmania Flower Show where we reconnected with several of our hosts and enjoyed the varied displays. Sadly the weather was cool but didn't dampen our spirits.

Despite the Spring garden season being behind by at least two weeks due to the very cold Winter experienced, most of the properties had beautiful displays of daffodils and tulips.

On day six we travelled south down the Heritage Highway to Hobart, passing through the historic towns of Ross and Oatlands, where there are many colonial sandstone buildings.

Our hotel in Hobart overlooked the water at Wrest Point with spectacular views. Hobart is an attractive city, set on

the Derwent River at the entry into a huge harbour. On our first morning we visited Inverawe. Positioned right on the water's edge, it is Tasmania's largest landscaped private native garden. Two other very different gardens were visited, one of which was large and park like and had trees from many countries.

The Botanic Gardens in Hobart were a delight and were in splendid order. We also visited a trout and salmon hatchery and walked to a lovely waterfall in the Mt Field National

Park.

We spent a day on the Tasman Peninsular including a visit to the Port Arthur Convict Settlement where we discovered more about this rich but sad history. We all enjoyed the wide variety of properties, gardens and scenery enormously. A big thank you to Gail for all the effort that went into the organisation for a fun tour.

MEMBERS GARDENS

\$10 pp each day. Register at the CHS 366 6937 and pay cash on the day. Includes afternoon tea.

Wednesday 8 November 1.30pm Windle Home & Garden 2/638 Leeston Rd. Meet Lincoln Event Centre at 1pm to carpool.

Wednesday 22 November 1.30pm Wairakei School Garden 250 Wairakei Road Bryndwr. Meet the teacher and children involved in the garden. Wednesday 6th December 12pm Scrivener Home & Garden 644 Tai Tapu Rd. Enjoy a BYO shared lunch with a planting demonstration from Jenny Hughes of Styx Mill Nursery. Followed by a visit to the Bell Home & Garden The Grange, 224 Tosswill Rd Prebbleton.

TOUR DIARY 2017/18

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

Autumn Colours in Central Otago & Dunedin Peninsula Monday 23 - Saturday 28 April 2018 Register your inter<u>est now. Flyer available soon.</u>

Queensland Mooloolaba - Noosa Heads & Surrounds. *August 2018* Register your interest now

PLANT OF THE MONTH Griselinia Gecko Green

A more compact version of its brother plant Broadway Mint, this hedge master has a slightly smaller foliage and is much more compact, creating a denser hedge or specimen plant and amazing contrast as a backdrop to the garden.

Purchase at any Oderings store or online: www.oderings.co.nz





MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Paulette Smaill

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

I was born in Christchurch, the second eldest of six girls and one boy. It was a busy, noisy creative household. My Mum was incredibly nurturing, efficient and house proud. She gave us her time willingly and introduced me to wonders of nature. My father had a love of the outdoors and animals. Our local playgrounds were the Heathcote river, Beckenham Ponds, Risingholme, and Botanical Gardens. At home we grew up with a menagerie of animals, namely canaries, geese, pig, rabbits, lambs, and a magpie. We had many free range fowls providing eqgs. As was typical of the 1950/60's our home was on a ¹/₄ acre section, laid out with manicured lawns, weed free roses, flower and lily gardens, shrubs in the front and side of the house and expansive vegetable gardens, fruiting trees and bushes. The family played and toiled in the garden both to grow for necessity to feed a large family, sell surplus and create an aesthetically pleasing environment.

Where do you live now?

Richard and I live in St Albans in a house which we built nine years ago. Our children have left home but currently live in Christchurch.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

I believe my interest in gardening and horticulture is in my DNA, a legacy from my parents and earlier generations. Childhood gardening has given me a feeling of 'spiritual' connection with nature and the earth, a sense of mental and physical well being and balance; pleasure from my efforts, an outlet for creativity and self sufficiency in growing food and maintaining a healthy ecosystem. It has forged friendship with like-minded people, and the value of sharing of knowledge, plants and excess produce is rewarding.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

Maintaining and developing our home garden which provides an outlet of my artistic creativity. My interests include topiary, espalier, growing from seed, companion planting, making compost and using more natural remedies for plant health, planting plants that foster the bee and insect population. I am now an active member of various gardening clubs

GARDEN CENTRES

and societies namely The Christchurch Beautifying Society, Lily Society, Alpine Society and garden clubs.

What's your favourite plant and why?

Presently I am enjoying the Japanese painted fern, mosses, pussy willow and flowering magnolias and dogwoods for their patterns, textures and form. The dandelion seed head and cabbage are themes for my film photography. Fragrant Bouquets of sweetpea, lily,

violets, pansy, snowdrops and lily of the valley evoke poignant memories of significant people in my life. NZ and exotic alpine and woodland plants and the shrubs strachyrus praecox and edgeworthia are worthy of note.

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

Designing, developing and establishing our bare clay and water logged section into an aesthetic garden with water features. This required being rescued at one stage from a rock fall

When did you join the CHS and why?

Two years ago I ventured beyond the garden gate and became involved in community garden groups. The mission statement of CHS was the impetus for me to join. To celebrate we are still gardening in Christchurch post earthquake, I was encouraged to put my garden in CHS 2015 Spring Garden Awards to share my efforts and subsequently I have received much enthusiastic praise.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

That the CHS has a higher profile and voice in Christchurch's environmental planning for the future. It appears there are fragmented horticultural/gardening initiatives and groups in Christchurch which seldom communicate with each other. It would be great if there was more unity or central information gathering hub. It is disappointing for me as a past Occupational Therapist to see that the present CHS offices are upstairs without lift access. This limits a number of people with disabilities or physical limitations accessing the offices. CHS focus should be equity and inclusion of school/community groups and individuals so their key activities in their mission statement can be reached and accessed by all people.







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