



ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS

Oaklands School celebrates Spring growth. Read more about this successful programme inside our newsletter



WHAT'S ON
FEBRUARY
2018

FEBRUARY AAG

Monday 5th 7pm & Tuesday 6th 9.45am

In February our speakers will talk about **planting for hot dry places** and **irrigation**. More details to follow in the February newsletter.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

Free to CHS Members \$5 non-members

FROM THE PRESIDENT 2017 a year of change

2017 has been a busy year for the Board and many volunteers who have helped in a variety of ways.

As you all know we finally sold our building in Hagley Park which meant we had to take all our belongings out and rationalise what we kept and disposed of. It was not easy but had to be done. It was May/June when we finally left the building. Thanks to everyone that helped.

All About Gardening has been held in great premises at the Christchurch Bridge Club rooms in Nova Place off Barbadoes Street. These lovely warm premises give us great parking and all the services we need. Better still more people are coming along to this members' monthly activity. It's free for members and our speakers have been fabulous. We will be there next year as well.

Other major activities have included the Autumn Garden Show in the Botanic Gardens, Oderings School Garden Show, Spring Daffodil Show, A & P Show and The Margaret Watling Floral Design Event, FLOWERWORKS.

We have continued with workshops and seminars, practical demonstrations, Ramblers, Winter Speaker Series, HortSkills, Orchards in Schools, School Gardens, Edible Garden Awards, specialist groups and much much more. Thanks to everyone involved in these activities.

Members make the Society work and valuable in our community. We will continue to be creative and get more activities for members that meet our mission of **"Connecting people to the art, science and practice of gardening and horticulture"**.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all and your families.
Alan Jolliffe, CHS President

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The CHS office will close for Christmas at 3pm on Thursday 21 December and reopen 10am Monday 15 January 2018.



For gardening queries or problems over the holiday season check into our facebook page or join HortTalk, a facebook group full of gardeners and great advice.

www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk
www.chsgardens.co.nz

REMINDERS

Members with a 'Clear' or 'Vodafone' account please send your updated email address to: office@chsgardens.co.nz or telephone Liz Parder on: 366 6937.

2018 subs are now due. Membership cards will be available at AAG meetings from December onwards or can be collected from the office between 10am-3pm.

EDIBLE GARDEN AWARDS

The CHS has partnered with the Christchurch City Council's Papanui-Innes & Spreydon-Cashmere wards to present the 6th Edible Garden Awards.

Categories range from private homes to preschools and are a wonderful way to acknowledge and celebrate those local residents, schools and communities who are passionate about their gardens and their bountiful harvests.

Registrations close early Feb 2018
www.chsgardens.co.nz for details



FLOWERWORKS

Highlights

The biennial Margaret Watling demonstration was held in early November at The Piano. The two floral designers, Shirley Russ and Annette Waller were sitting a national exam in performance demonstration which would lead them to be able to demonstrate internationally. Each designer demonstrated for an hour and an amazing amount of work went into each demonstration.

Shirley explored the settlement of Christchurch from the early Maori settlers naming Aotearoa through the early English families and the plants they brought with them right through to the Irish and Chinese settlers to her own Scottish connections.

Annette asked us to imagine as she took us from her abstract Christmas tree, her "high-rise building" and her exotic scene using long pieces of macrocarpa that she found on her farm in Geraldine. Grouped together these pieces of wood could easily have been a silhouette in Morocco!

Both Shirley and Annette used a wide variety of beautiful plant material with many clever technical touches. Their work was a great pleasure to experience and we thank them for their dedication and creativity. We must also congratulate them both on passing this exam and wish them our very best for their future work with flowers.

2018 NZ LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday 13 January 2-5pm & Sunday 14 January 9am-4pm
The Parade Room, Riccarton Racecourse, Racecourse Rd

Why not have a go and enter your lilies, decorative floral themes and photography....

you just may just have a winning entry. It will certainly make a more a interesting show!

Anyone can enter in the show and you do not have to be a member. For more information contact: **Martin Toon**
Tel: 342 4551 Mob: 021 669 131

WHAT'S ON
THIS
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
CHS Members Free. Non-members \$5

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

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

Monday 16 January 2018 7.30pm
CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

Dis budding & bud securing earlyies.
Pest management.

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 5 December 12pm
Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 12 December 9.45am
Mona Vale - Meet at the Rose Garden car park. *Bring a picnic morning tea*

No walks in January

2018 Programme available now

GIFT IDEAS FOR THE GARDEN

Have some fun & games in the garden this Christmas

Looking for gift ideas that are suitable for the whole family? With the weather getting warmer there is more opportunity to spend time in the garden. Oderings fun outdoor games will keep your friends and family entertained this Summer and are a great gift idea. Check out their outdoor games which include Pick Up Sticks, Badminton, Skittles, Connect 4, Quoits, Mini Golf and Jenga. Available at all Oderings stores or online at: www.oderings.co.nz



RAMBLER'S RAMBLE

September 2017

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Beautiful designs once again!

Twenty two started the ramble from Halswell Quarry Park in overcast cool conditions to Quarry View Subdivision to take in the views – mix of new homes and farmland.

Birds entertained and bees were seen doing what they do best. On returning to the Quarry Park a few of the Rambler's went on to view the Japanese Sister City garden area where the Cherry Blossoms were in full bloom.

These rambles are very popular, with many regular supporters.

Download the 2018 programme from:

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers



The Floral Design Group recommences
3pm Wednesday 21 February 2018



FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Wednesday 20 December 3pm

CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

Focus on: Christmas & all things festive!

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 21 December 3:45 - 5pm

CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street



LILY SOCIETY FUND-RAISER

Healthy, potted oriental fragrant lily plants available for \$10 a pot. Flowering into late Summer. A lovely living gift kept in the pot until after flowering in late Summer or put in the garden.

For more information on each plant (and a picture) or to place an order please contact Paulette Smaill.

Tel: 03 3524 926 Mob: 027 675 3815

Cash sales only



MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS with Michael Coulter

Summer starts this month and so do the first of the fruits of the season. All the berry fruit that we associate with Summer are in full production now. To keep them in production they need to have regular watering and protection from birds.

Later in the month some of the stone fruit will begin to ripen so a treatment for brown rot as soon as possible will help stop fruit loss to this disease.

As the weather gets warmer so does the need to look out for any increase in insect pest numbers on many of our fruit and vegetable crops.

Although we had a wet Winter and Spring irrigation in the garden is still needed to keep the surface soil where the plants are growing moist. This will ensure the best growth, especially for the more shallow rooted plants like Summer annuals and vegetable crops.

Lawns will benefit from weekly watering and regular mowing but remember, if you treated your lawn for weeds then you must not use the clippings for mulching or composting for at least 6 mowings or longer.

ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS

The following schools currently participate in the programme. **Planted in 2015** – St Martins, Gilberthorpe, Northcote, Addington, Oaklands **Planted 2016** – Waitakiri, Rawhiti, Wharenui, Cobham Intermediate, Casebrook Intermediate, Kaiapoi Borough School. **Planted in 2017** Iselworth, Haeata, Wairakei, Elmwood, Chisnallwood Intermediate, Fendalton.

The **Waitakiri School** orchard is located in the playground, between the trees is ample lawn for the children to play with the edging preventing conflict between play and young growing trees. Growing in the gardens are spring onions, silver beet, celery, broad beans and broccoli. **Cobham Intermediate** teacher Annie Bowker says that the orchard and vegetable garden are providing fantastic opportunities to practice the school values along with environment, science and sustainability.

The **Gilberthorpe School** orchard is thriving under the care of Jess and the children. The children have begun making gardens under the trees and intend to plant alyssum which is hardy and loved by bees. **Addington School's** orchard has a thriving understory of child high blue phacelia and orange poppies. Both the blackcurrants and the raspberries are heavy with green berries and fruit has set on one of the pear trees .

Casebrook Intermediate's orchard is thriving. Children water



the trees regularly and have successfully planted oregano, borage and calendula marigolds in the tree circles.

Northcote School has built raised vegetable garden beds beside the orchard. One garden is green with healthy sunflowers and the other full of seedlings.

The **Isleworth School** orchard is also part of the playground area. New vegetable garden beds are being developed next to the orchard. Student Wyatt said, "I love learning about fruit and vegetables. I want to grow corn."

Fendalton School has created a beautiful walkway of fruit trees. They have healthy apple trees with luxuriant silver beet growing beneath. **Chisnallwood Intermediate's** orchard is growing beautifully with all the trees in good health. The students with the help of Owen are planning to plant flowers and herbs in the garden beds under the trees. **Oaklands School** orchard is now becoming established. Children work in the orchard weeding, spreading bark, composting and looking after the chickens. .



FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

January BBQ - details to be confirmed by the Circle directly or telephone Janet Brown: 357 2110

Wednesday 27 February 2018 7.30pm
15 Abberley Cres, Abberley Park
Speaker to be confirmed

No on-site parking

HERITAGE ROSE PRUNING

Saturday 9 December 10am - 12pm
Ferrymead Historic Village

All welcome to come along and join Alan Jolliffe.

Bring secateurs if you want to do some practical pruning of old fashioned roses.

Cancelled if heavy rain

ODERINGS SCHOOL GARDEN SHOW 2018

The Oderings School Garden Show is planned again for March 2018.

Once again it is being held at The Woolston Club and will be open to the public from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 March.

We are really looking forward to seeing how the children respond to the 2018 theme!

More details in February.

DECEMBER TASKS AROUND THE GARDEN

Fruit and Vegetable Garden

1. Continue to plant and sow seeds to ensure a continuous supply of crops
2. Give strawberries weekly liquid feeds to keep them growing and cropping
3. Sow parsnips for the Winter
4. Plant leeks
5. Thin out excess apple and pear developing fruit to give better fruit quality
6. Keep weeding before the weeds get too big
7. Harvest garlic once the tops have dried off

Flower Garden

1. Plant Summer annuals
2. Remove the dry leaves of daffodils and other Spring bulbs
3. Plant dahlias, chrysanthemums and begonias
4. Put in supports for taller perennials before they get too tall
5. Dead head roses as the flowers finish to promote new flowers
6. Prune any unwanted growth from rhododendrons as they finish flowering
7. Plant up hanging baskets and other containers with fuchsias, geraniums and annuals for colour around areas that have no garden



Lawns

1. Mow once a week but not too low
2. Water as needed but not to excess as this may promote disease
3. Treat for grass grub and porina
4. Trim back edges before mowing as this keeps them more tidy

RECENT TOURS

Tour Reports from Freda & Gail

Our Spring Tour programme has finished for the season with much knowledge and fellowship shared. A very big thank you to the garden owners Adrienne & Cam Moore, Ruth & David Benson, Phil & Linda Ducker, Jean Osborne and sons Justin & Pete, Terry & Lynette Windle and Catherine Parkes and her little team at the Wairakei School.

Without their support and all the participants it would not be possible to enjoy this programme. **Thank you.**

LOCH LEVEN GARDEN & NURSERY

Just one of the gardens included on the recent CHS Hurunui Garden Tour & reviewed by Freda Hunter

Michael & Doreen Dryden's home and garden looked absolutely stunning on our recent tour. Attractive sweeping borders and a superb mix of trees, shrubs, topiary and perennials all chosen for their hardiness made a real statement. The climate in the Hurunui can be extreme so having shelter established was also essential for this large garden. The landscaping worked well with a good feeling of space between the borders. To note was the creative use of plants and the large groupings, e.g. native poa cita (snow grass) and rocks, hedging for structure and shelter e.g. buxus sempervivens, lonicera nita, choisya ternata and aztec. The colour combinations of burgundy (berberis helmond pillar), gray (artemesia) and lime added real "pop".

The nursery provided us with the opportunity to purchase plants, some of which are not readily available, e.g. linum perenne. To complete the picture of this delightful house and garden was a spacious deck with complimentary planting - a wonderful spot for entertaining and relaxation.

Images above: Geraldine and Loch Leven. Below: Fellowship time at Terry & Lynette Windles, Monte Alto in bloom, Phil & Linda Ducker's, Wairakei School and Loch Leven colour.



MEMBERS' GARDENS

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

Wednesday 6th December 12pm

Scrivener Home & Garden

644 Tai Tapu Rd, Tai Tapu

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

High Country Day Tour

Thursday 8 February 2018 \$135 pp

Autumn Colours in Central Otago & Dunedin Peninsula

Monday 23 - Saturday 28 April 2018

Register your interest now. Flyer available soon.

Queensland Mooloolaba - Towoomba - Noosa Heads & Surrounds.

September/October 2018

Register your interest now

HIGH COUNTRY DAY TOUR - Thursday 8 February 2018

Our 2018 High Country Tour includes the gardens of The Point, Middle Rock and Rockwood Station, all in the Lake Coleridge area. Rockwood is a garden that we have not featured in our tour programme before. It is a 1400 acre farm in the Canterbury foothills where Ben and Cheryl Richards run cattle and sheep.

They have also been restoring the heritage property and gardens dating back to the 1850's in keeping with its Edwardian style and in the redevelopment some of the original features have been discovered. The Homestead is bordered by 100 acres of native bush and the Rockwood Stream and is set within

a beautiful woodland garden which includes English trees and rhododendrons. This promises to be an interesting day experiencing country hospitality at its best. Register via the CHS office.

Need a great gift for garden-lover? We can create a gift voucher with this tour for you to parcel up. Just let us know before December 11 so we have time to post.

\$135 per person. Includes coach travel, morning tea, lunch and afternoon refreshments.



Middle Rock

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Rachel Vogan

Since I can remember, my world has been full of flowers and plants. Being a self-confessed plantaholic with a passion for all things botanical, I am blessed to have a vocation that indulges my love of plants. Growing up at the head of the Akaroa harbour, on the family farm in Duvauchelle, it was Nana Vogan who led me down the garden path.

Having a large vegetable garden and orchard growing up in the early 70's, effectively led to the family living off the land - especially with no supermarkets around back in those days!

My earliest memory of gardening was from the sidelines of the vegetable garden, Mum and Dad would attach my car seat to the garden fence, and secure me in it, so I was close to them, but restricted in how much I could move around. One afternoon, they forgot all about me, and they left me there for a few hours while Dad milked the cows. Each thinking I was with the other parent, they found me hours later happily wiggling my toes in the soil talking to myself!

Uncle Teddy Weir and Nana Vogan both cultivated my love of plants and gardening, I spent hours with them, growing vegetables, picking fruit and flowers. Making sand saucers was my favourite thing to do with Nana's flowers.

To leave high school a year early, I enrolled in a Horticultural programme in Rangiora for 12 months, from this I secured a Horticultural and Gardening apprenticeship with Bayliss Nurseries, a wholesale plant nursery in Belfast, I completed this and marketing at Lincoln University. In 1998, I branched out and started my own company, The Daisy Chain Ltd - now known as The Happy Gardener, and I began working as a consultant within the garden industry. For the past 20 years I have written, published three gardening books, contributed to several others, including Flora, The Encyclopaedia of Plants, edited and contributed to numerous issues of The



Kiwi Gardener, hosted various TV and Radio gardening segments and worked on and judged at a number of gardening events in NZ and overseas. I have hosted garden tours throughout the country and lead a trip to the Chelsea Flower Show.

From 1997, I lectured horticulture part-time at Christchurch Polytechnic and was the chief ambassador and exhibitor mentor for the Ellerslie Flower Show for five years while the event was in Christchurch.

Over the years I have sat on various boards both nationally and locally. I was the chairperson and a board member for 10 years with the NGIA NZ Nursery and Garden Industry Association (previously the NZNA). I sat on the CERA community forum for four years until CERA was disestablished. Currently, I sit on the board of the CHS, offering expertise in events, industry and plants. I am also passionate about community gardens and sit on the CCGA board. (Canterbury Community Gardening Association).

My mantra is to connect as many people as possible with plants and gardening, I am passionate about sharing my knowledge and paying it forward to encourage more people up the garden path.

When asked to join the CHS a few years ago, I soon discovered a group of like-minded people, who were all willing to share their knowledge and experience.

My vision for the CHS is for it to become the 'go to' place for gardeners old and new to gather and learn. A place where people can share ideas, for it to be a stimulating environment where people can be educated and inspired by growing their own food, get landscaping ideas, be guided on garden maintenance and learn more about plants.

Congratulations to Melanie Tam who won the Yates 5-pack seed give-away on Facebook and to Marilyn Mitchelmore, Paulette Smail, Wilma Tully, Jane McCarthy and Marijke Etwell on winning double movie passes to Tulip Fever by answering the following quiz.

1. What is the origin of the name 'tulip'? *Persian for turban*
2. Which singer made the song 'Tulips from Amsterdam' famous? *Max Bygraves*

3. What event inspired Alexander Dumas to write the book 'The Black Tulip'? *The lynching of Dutch politician Johan de Witt and his brother in 1672*
4. Where in the wild would I find the species *Tulipa kaufmania*? *Turkistan*
5. Where in New Zealand is an annual Tulip Festival held? *Rotorua*



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