

Canterbury Horticultural Society Newsletter No 251 **OCTOBER 2018**

# the electric Garden

## ALL ABOUT GARDENING OCTOBER

Monday 1 Oct 7pm & Tuesday 2 Oct 9.45am

Electric Garden founders **Michael Trengrove** and **Matt Scott** discuss their vision for using modern technology to re-engage students with the environment.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour and Q&A.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place  
 \$2 Members \$5 non-members



## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH OCTOBER EVENTS



### ODERINGS MEMBERS EVENING

**Thursday 11 October 4.30pm - 6pm**  
 Oderings Cashmere, 205 Cashmere Rd  
 Stock up on the essentials or treat yourself to some new tools at the Oderings Shopping Night!  
 20% discount when you present your CHS Membership card.

Contact the office for replacement cards.  
 office@chsgardens.co.nz or tel: 366 6937

### GREEN THUMBS RADIO

**Monday 8 October 9.30am**  
 Out & About with the Canterbury Horticultural Society  
 Listen to CHS Vice President Ray King along with former Board Member Annette Hill as they chat live on Plains FM 96.9 for "Canterbury through the Seasons".

### NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

**15 - 22 October 2018**  
[www.yates.co.nz/nationalgardening](http://www.yates.co.nz/nationalgardening)

Gardening, friendships, good health, strong communities and closer connections with nature.  
 Whether it's a few pots on the balcony, a small patch or an extensive garden, everyone can experience the joy of gardening.

## THE ELECTRIC GARDEN

### The Electric garden - Empowering Youth to Reconnect with the Environment

At this month's All About Gardening meeting Electric Garden founders Michael Trengrove (image bottom) and Matt Scott will discuss the future role of teaching digital technologies through nature and the ethics and philosophy when combining technology with the environment.

The Electric Garden is a hands-on Internet of Things (IoT) solution for schools. The pilot programme is launching this month with a competition for schools in Canterbury, Otago and Southland to grow the biggest pumpkin and tallest sunflower, all while students learn modern digital technologies. A national rollout is planned in 2019.

From 2020, the Ministry of Education will expect all schools and kura in New Zealand to incorporate the Digital Technologies Hangarau Matihiko curriculum and to link digital technologies



across all learning areas. The Electric Garden starter kit helps to facilitate this, by including hardware, soil sensors, a teacher training day, lesson plans and learning resources that have been developed to align with the curriculum. Ongoing technical support is also provided for teachers.

The Electric Garden has been set up as a social enterprise: a business venture that applies commercial strategies to generate profits, and then invests any profits into causes supporting social good. In this case, Digital Future Aotearoa, the parent charity, will use proceeds from sales of the Electric Garden to support its suite of programmes for promoting digital equality - such as Code Club Aotearoa, Code Club 4 Teachers, Code Club 4 Corporates, and She Can Code.



# BACKYARD BUZZ PROJECT

*What's the buzz in your backyard?*

## To bee, or not to bee

Pollinators are in decline globally but are responsible for the production of a third of our food crops and 70 per cent of New Zealand native flora.

You probably know a lot about the world's most famous pollinator, the honeybee, a managed insect used mainly for crop pollination. You might not realise that we have wild pollinators such as native bees and hoverflies that can play an equally important role in our ecosystem.

Better understanding and the promotion of wild pollinators in Christchurch will benefit our biodiversity, our food, our gardens and our native plants. Help the CCC out by observing pollinators and plants in your garden between October and December.

## Get involved

Head to : [www.ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens/learning-projects-and-programmes/backyardbiodiversity/backyardbuzz](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens/learning-projects-and-programmes/backyardbiodiversity/backyardbuzz)

*There are some great downloadable resources to help you identify pollinators as well as a sheet for recording your own observations. There is also a link to how to make pollinator friendly gardens. Well worth a visit.*



## Herb of the Month

**Puarangi - Native Hibiscus** *Hibiscus trionum*

Puarangi, a short lived perennial, was considered to be a native plant but more recently considered to be of African origin, possible brought here by the Maori. Here in the cool South Island it is better treated as an annual.

*H. trionum* grows to 50 – 80 cms high and has bright green, slightly bristly green deeply serrated leaves. The hibiscus type flowers last only for a day and vary from cream to soft yellow with maroon-purple centres. The bubble-like seed pods have resulted in a common name "bladder plant". It grows from seeds or cuttings taken in Summer.

*H. diversifolius* resembles *H. trionum* but has prickly stems and grows up to 2 metres. It is rare and prefers wild damp or swampy areas. *H. richardsonii* is also rare. It grows to 1 m high in coastal areas in the North Island and on some off-shore islands. The flowers do not have the dark centres of the other two varieties. Stock love to eat it.

All three species are known as Puarangi.

## CHRYSANTHEMUMS

**Saturday 6 October 1.30pm**

Susan & Michael Coulter's  
183 Weston Road St Albans

Potting on and labelling plants for the plant sale. Plant sale arrangements General cultural notes, plant nutrition and fertilisers.

Followed by take away tea provided by the Circle.

## GARDEN CLUB REPS

**Tuesday 2 October 12pm**

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place

## JUNIOR GARDENERS

**Thursday 18 October 3.45 - 5pm**

Terra Viva Home & Garden  
242 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

Location of meeting venues subject to change. Please call the CHS office if in doubt. Tel 366 6937

## HERB SOCIETY

The Canterbury Herb Society meet regularly at the Avice Hill Craft Centre, 395 Memorial Ave. Visitors welcome \$2

For the October meeting the Society celebrates its **50th Anniversary with a lunch** at the Raspberry Cafe in Tai Tapu on **Thursday 25 October**.

*Enquiries to Janet Porton on tel: 348 6635*

## WOODEND FLOWER SHOW

**Saturday 6 October 1pm - 4pm**

Woodend Community Centre

Outstanding Spring flowers, floral art, stalls, Devonshire teas & more...

*\$2 Entry, children free*

## PLANT SALE

**Saturday 20 October 9am - noon**

St Peters Church grounds. Church Corner  
23 Yaldhurst Rd, Upper Riccarton

The annual Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Plant Sale features a wonderful range of dahlia tubers and chrysanthemum plants.

**Plants & tubers \$4 ea or 3 for \$10**

*Cash only no eftpos available*

## MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS with Michael Coulter

This month is a busy time as Spring is now really here and much of what we do will determine how successful our garden will be this season.

The weather will still be changeable so care must be taken when planting the more tender plants. The days are longer so we can see that plant growth is more rapid, including weeds, so attention should be given to weeding.

The warmer days increase the evaporation rate so watering will be needed more often, both in container grown plants and in the open ground. Many of our fruit trees are now in flower so care must be taken when considering spraying to protect the bees, it is wise to wait until all the petals have dropped before spraying.

The Spring Flower Show combined with the NZ Alpine Garden Society, CHS Daffodil Circle and Rhododendron Society was held 15 - 16 September. All organisations were well represented and the CHS's part of the show went smoothly. Entries for the Daffodils were lower than usual however the quality of flowers on display were the best we have had for many years.





## Ramblers News

August Rambles were to Styx Mill Reserve where 19 were given an insight to the area's history and heritage. Wildlife was abundant among the native plantings and we were given an insight into the many uses of Harakeke (flax) that grows well in the reserve. The next Ramble was in the Waimakariri area of Kainga and Stewarts Gully where the treat was the breaking of Spring along the stop bank. Blossoms and green buds abounded everywhere along with unusual tree stumps (see image below).

September's first Ramble was Lower Cashmere starting with a tour through Ashgrove Reserve of natives then following the Heathcote River from Smarts Bridge at Ferniehurst Street under the trees among the Spring flowers and blossoms to bridge at Studholme Street, crossing over river to return along Ashgrove Terrace to our starting point. Spring has sprung.



# NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK *is back!*

15-22 OCTOBER 2018

Our Monarch Butterfly is under threat and this National Gardening Week Kiwis are being called upon to plant butterfly friendly plants.

Yates is getting behind the drive by giving away various free butterfly friendly seeds including Yates new Butterfly Field Mix seeds between **1st and 14th October**.

Just register online during this time to receive your seeds.

[www.yates.co.nz/nationalgardeningweek](http://www.yates.co.nz/nationalgardeningweek)

**A national planting day will be held on Saturday 20 October.**

Plant a swan plant or other butterfly friendly plants in your garden, in your neighbour's garden, at school, in your local community garden – and let's help Monarch butterflies flourish.

## RAMBLERS

**Tuesday 9 October 9.45am**

**Botanic Gardens**

Meet Armagh St carpark, near pedestrian bridge

**Tuesday 23 October 9.45am**

**Ilam** Meet New World carpark, Peer St side

No walk if wet. FREE

Programme available online:

[www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers)

## FRUIT & VEGETABLE

**Wednesday 31 October 7:30pm**

Deaf Society of Canterbury  
80 Fitzgerald Ave

**Vegetables Improving Plant Health**

by Jeff Humm

**A Visual Guide to Gardening through the Year 3** with Peter Saunders

## FLORAL DESIGN

**Wednesday 17 October 3pm**

The group is working on basic ikebana techniques for the next few months.

New members welcome.

Contact the CHS office

Tel: 366 6937

Email: [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz)

See the latest creations online:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsm3HUR3N>

### Flower Garden

Allow plenty of time for the Spring bulbs to grow after flowering to make next seasons flower buds.

Feed roses and other flowering shrubs as they move into growth.

Remove the Winter and Spring annuals once they have finished to get the ground ready for Summer plants.

Summer flowering bulbs/corms may now be planted.

New perennials are now ready for planting.

Treat for insects and slugs before they do a lot of damage.

Hoe out weeds while they are small as

they will die off quicker.

Prune Spring flowering shrubs as soon as they have finished flowering.

### Vegetable Garden

Begin sowing seeds of the Summer crops.

Prepare ground for planting towards the end of the month for tender plants such as tomatoes, peppers, courgettes etc.

Keep garlic, onions, early carrots, peas and other early sown crops weed free.

Mound up early potatoes and start planting the main crop cultivars.

Strawberries will start flowering soon, keep them watered and watch for slugs.

Asparagus will be in full production. Cut spares when ready and plant new plants.

White butterflies are around so brassicas

will need to be treated to stop them being eaten.

Green houses will start to get very hot, plan some shade to keep temperatures down.

### Lawns

This month is when grass growth is most rapid so weekly mowing and catching the clippings is essential.

After the Winter and while the ground is still reasonably moist edges should be re-cut to make them clean and tidy.

Weed control and feeding are best completed this month.

New lawns can be sown now and any repairs needed also completed.

The old thick thatch may be removed by raking or by a de-thatching machine.





**Gail Scrivener** is an experienced Tour Guide with over 30 years in the industry. Gail has led tours for the CHS to Thailand, Tasmania, Melbourne and Norfolk Island, as well as many in and around NZ.

## TOURS WITH THE CHS

### Christchurch Spring Garden visits

**Wednesday 31 October 1.30pm**

The gardens of Sue & Alastair Stokes and Pat Pilkington, Merivale area

**\$10** includes afternoon tea (self drive)

### Hurunui Garden Festival Tour

**Friday 2 & Saturday 3 November**

10 gardens to visit over two full days!

**\$475** \$95 (single supplement).

**BOOK NOW! Closing Soon**

### Spring Day Tour, Darfield & Hororata

**Wednesday 7 November**

**\$145** includes coach, morning tea and buffet lunch.

### Tai Tapu Garden Tour & Fete

**Sunday 11 November 9am-4pm**

Enjoy a relaxed day in rural Tai Tapu with five beautiful local gardens.

**\$120** includes: coach travel, morning tea, garden tour ticket, boxed lunch at the Tai Tapu School & CHS Tour Guide

### Tour registrations via the CHS office:

Tel: 366 6937

Email: [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz)

## Hurunui Garden Festival Tour 2-3 November 2018

**Come and join us for two days in the beautiful gardens and warm country hospitality of North Canterbury's Hurunui District.** Over two full days we visit ten gardens (only two of which have featured in previous tours).

These include: **Omih Stream** Waipara, **Spye Omih Road**, **Chetterwood** Hawarden, **Marchmont** and **Highgate** in Hanmer (image top right), **Loch Leven** and **Wynyard** in the Culverden Area and **Bank Street, Amberley House & Garden** and **Lindfield** in Amberley.

On day two of the tour we visit **Lindfield** in Amberley (image right). A reliable supply and constant flow of spring fed water has made the garden at Linfield flourish enabling a large pond to be a feature of the garden which is sheltered from the nor' west winds by pine shelterbelts. The garden was developed in harmony with the timeless elegance of the 1916 homestead and is imbued with a peaceful serenity.

You can imagine the decades of family gatherings, games on the lawn, and drinks on the veranda.

Around the gentle contours of the lawns you'll see a small number of specimen trees such as an elm, wellingtonia and oak, complemented with natives, flowering borders and over 150 roses of hybrid-tea and floribunda varieties providing colour and contrast during the warmer months.

**\$475** Share Twin Basis (\$95 single supplement)

**Includes:** Accommodation & Breakfast at the Heritage Hotel Hanmer, 2 Morning Teas, 2 Boxed Lunches and a Gala Dinner with guest speakers Dan Rutherford & Kim Odering.

**Early booking is encouraged as seats on this trip are limited.**



## NOVEMBER EVENTS

### ALL ABOUT GARDENING

**Mon 5 Nov 7pm & Tue 6 Nov 9.45am**

**Mary Tingey**, CHS Orchards in Schools Coordinator joins us to talk about this worthwhile venture.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour. **Christchurch Bridge Club**  
21 Nova Place  
\$2 includes tea, coffee & biscuits

## SPRING DAY TOUR

### THREE GARDENS IN DARFIELD & HORORATA

**Wednesday 7 November 9.45am**

**Taradale, The Gums, Terrace Station plus Buffet Lunch and Historical Talk by Louise Deans at Homebush.**

This tour offers a group-experience of the Hororata and Darfield areas. The tour includes meeting the families of three local properties, each showcasing their different lifestyles, homes and gardens. As well as a buffet lunch at Homebush and a talk on the history of the property.

**\$145 per person**

