



Canterbury Horticultural Society Newsletter No 253 **DECEMBER 2018**

## ALL ABOUT GARDENING DECEMBER

**Monday 3rd 7pm & Tuesday 4th 9.45am**

### **Christmas Table Setting with Terra Viva**

**Shirley & Brenda join us to demonstrate how you can transform your table to something spectacular this festive season!**

Using both live and artificial plants, they'll present a variety of different Christmas looks for your table – from beachy to classic, there's something for all tastes.

*Members, please bring a plate to share for Christmas themed supper or morning tea.*

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

*Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place, \$2 Members \$5 non-members (see new 2019 prices below)*



**Home & Garden**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT ALAN JOLLIFFE

It is almost Christmas and members will be preparing for the festive season. Hopefully your gardens will benefit from the extra rain we have had in November to ensure it is growing well and looking great for family gatherings.

The CHS has had an interesting year especially discussions around the Autumn Show and Tea Kiosk. On the 6th of December the City Council is due to make its decision about our application to lease this building. After that meeting I will let everyone know what that decision is.

On behalf of the Board I wish you and your families all the best for the festive season and please enjoy your garden through the Summer months.

## EDIBLE GARDEN AWARDS 2019

### **Growing an edible garden? Enter the 2019 Awards**

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Edible Garden Awards. These awards are an opportunity for us to recognise all types of food gardens great and small and the work and care that goes into creating these.

Wards participating in the scheme include Papanui-Innes, Spreydon-Cashmere and for the first time, Linwood-Central-Heathcote.

Entry forms and criteria information can be found online at:

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

*Nominations close from late January to early February 2019.*

## GARDENING QUESTIONS?

Gardening questions? Head to the Horticultural Hub for answers!

Every Wednesday and Sunday, between 1-4pm, the Old Information Centre becomes a Hub for gardening advice and inspiration.



The friendly folk inside are a wealth of knowledge and are ready for horticultural, botanical or conservation conversation. Run by volunteers of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and the Canterbury Horticultural Society.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBS

Invoices for subscriptions for 2019 have been either sent by email or posted.

Subs are due by **20th December**. If you have not received your invoice yet please let Liz in the office know.

When paying please indicate if you require a membership card, either by writing 'Card' on the payment advice or in the 'Code' section of online banking.

It is recommended that Membership cards be worn at AAG sessions, this helps the Committee to see who the visitors are and can be made welcome.

***The AAG door charge to be changed from 1 February to \$5 members and \$10 non-members.***

## CHRISTMAS HOURS

The CHS office will close for Christmas from Wednesday 19 December and reopen on Monday 14 January 2019.

## GREEN THUMBS RADIO

**Monday 10 December 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".



Green Thumbs



## RAMBLERS News

**Ilam Homestead** was the feature of the late October Ramble with 19 enjoying the environs around the University of Canterbury. The Homestead gardens were in their full splendour, having everyone in awe.

November's first Ramble had 21 strolling through parts of **Hoon Hay and Hillmorton** with a mix of 1970's homes with established sections through to new buildings and gardens. The group also ventured onto the site of the new Nga Puna Wai Sports Hub that is nearing completion. *The last Ramble for 2018 explores Avonside - all welcome!*



## HERB OF THE MONTH

*from the  
Canterbury Herb Society*

### Rosemary

*Rosmarinus officinalis*

**"There's rosemary,  
that's for remembrance"**  
Shakespeare, (Hamlet)



This had to be the herb for the 50th Anniversary of the Canterbury Herb Society.

Native to the Mediterranean and Asia, the Latin name *Rosmarinus* translates as "dew of the sea" due not only to its native habitat but the dew like blossoms seen at a distance. It is a very hardy, fragrant, evergreen perennial smallish shrub either upright or sprawling and will grow almost anywhere surviving droughts and colder climates with its stiff needle-like leaves. It does not like wet swampy conditions.

Many varieties have been cultivated or crossed and today flower colours range through shades of blue, purple, pinks and white. Foliage comes from green through variegated to a yellow. The plant, which becomes woody with age, makes a

fragrant, long flowering, garden plant and if kept clipped, a nicely scented hedge. It is easy to grow from cuttings.

Rosemary was considered sacred to ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans and valued for its medicinal and aromatic virtues down the centuries. It was believed to improve memory, worn as a wreath to symbolize fidelity, love and abiding friendship. A wife grows it in remembrance of her life before marriage. For crime and plague prevention it was put in wine vinegar to wash the feet. It is still used for remembrance at funerals and at war commemorations.

Today culinary use is made of rosemary in herbal teas, with meats, vegetables while the oil is used in perfumes, shampoo, cleaning products and as incense.

Men beware! An old saying, **"Rosemary thriving when planted by the wife, indicates that she wears the trousers."**

## CHRYSANTHEMUMS

**Saturday 8 December 6pm**  
Michael and Susan Coulters  
183 Weston Road

*BYO drinks and dessert*

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

## GARDEN CLUB REPS

**Tuesday 4 December 12pm**  
Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place

## JUNIOR GARDENERS

**Thursday 20 December 3.45 - 5pm**  
Terra Viva Home & Garden  
242 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

## HERB SOCIETY

**Thursday 13 December 6pm**  
Craft Room, Avic Hill Craft Centre  
395 Memorial Avenue

### Christmas Themed

Bring a suitable hat to decorate. Have fun with a Christmas quiz.

*Please bring a salad or dessert.  
All else provided.*

## CHS 2019 AWARDS

### Silver Service Award

*In appreciation of the outstanding contribution made to the Society*

### Kowhai Award

*In appreciation of the outstanding contribution made to the Society*

### Outstanding Horticulturalist Award

*For a person demonstrating an outstanding contribution in Horticulture*

### John Taylor Award

*For Leadership in Horticulture  
For a person demonstrating outstanding leadership and service to horticulture.*

Nominations can be made online until  
**Monday 17 December 2018**  
[www.chsgardens.co.nz/awards](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/awards)

## MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*

December is the real start of Summer and after a very changeable Spring we look forward to a more settled and warmer time. Overall Spring has been a good growing season and as a result there has been a good set of both stone and pip. Because of this there is a need to thin out the developing fruit so that the size and quality of the crop is achieved.

The planting of Summer annuals needs to be completed and with the possibility of water restrictions add mulch to as much of the garden areas as possible to help retain soil moisture.

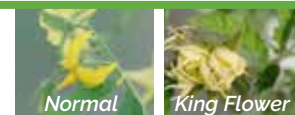
Many plants will have made vigorous growth which can be a problem, a prune out of this growth while retaining the natural shape of the plant may be done now.

Pest and diseases are starting to appear so some preventive treatments made now will protect the plants from harmful damage.

Berry fruits are ripening and birds can be a problem if the plants are not covered by netting.

It is a busy time in the garden but we also get the satisfaction of eating our own produce and the enjoyment of the flowers the we have grown.

# FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROUP *News & tips*



In October's meeting Alan Jolliffe shared a new product which helps to prevent Codling Moth on apple trees. 'Bird Proof', is a non-toxic, tacky repellent gel which can be used to form a repellent band on the tree-trunk which lasts for several seasons.

**Peter Saunders** provided the third instalment of ***A Visual Guide to Gardening through the Year*** complete with a slide-show. His tomatoes in the tunnel house are now flowering. He uses trickle irrigation to ensure water gets to the roots and not the weeds. This also prevents an overly humid atmosphere which can encourage fungal diseases.

With heirloom varieties, the first flower is often large and distorted and this is called a 'King' flower. This should be removed. He allows 2 laterals for regular tomato plants and 4 for cherry. Extra nutrients such as dissolved blood and bone or a seaweed feed may be provided. However, if grown in pure compost they may not need anything extra.

Tomatoes suffering from fruit end rot, which is caused by a lack of calcium, may benefit from a sprinkle of milk powder. Peter's Tomatillos are flowering. These little fruit are like a cape gooseberry and are good for salsas. His patio is full of young plants growing in boxes by brick walls, these radiate heat at night and provide shelter from easterly winds. Chilli and capsicums need spraying later when white-fly appears. There are fewer problems with outdoor-grown plants than glass-house plants where diseases spread more quickly. Look out for berry bud moth, which lays eggs on the stem and burrows into the stalk to emerge at the flower spike, which will droop and curl up. BT spray may help, but don't use Confidor which stays in the plant for two years and can kill bees.

Phil Ducker suggested that carrots, parsnips and lettuces should be sown in short rows every 3 weeks to keep up supplies. Dwarf beans will be ready in

50 days and climbing beans 75 days.

Our main speaker was **Jeff Humm** and his topic was, ***Vegetables: Improving Plant Health***. Jeff was a long-time member of the Soil Health Association as well as responsible for maintaining the sizeable (45 acres) gardens at the Technology Park, and later the Sanitarium factory. He was also a Garden Show judge for 25 years. Jeff treated us to a slide-show of some wonderful colourful plantings. He also explained the benefits of adding crusher dust to compost to produce a complete planting medium. Compost provides the bacteria and crusher dust, derived from our main local greywacke rock, has up to 36 different minerals; these boost the immunity of your plants to stave off fungal mildews on growing plants.

Other tips he passed on: never let seedlings wilt; if they are stressed like this they will never grow well and will bolt.

## RAMBLERS

**Tuesday 11 December 9.45am**

### Avonside

Meet Woodham Park, Woodham Rd

Bring morning tea to share

No walk if wet. FREE

**2019 Programme available now:**  
[www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers)

## FRUIT & VEGETABLE

*No hall meeting December and January*

**Wednesday 27 February 7.30pm**

Deaf Society of Canterbury,  
80 Fitzgerald Ave

**Mahinga Kai** Growing, Gathering, and using  
Indigenous Edible Plants.

**A Visual Guide to Gardening through  
the Year #5** with Peter Saunders

## FLORAL DESIGN

*No meeting December and January*

**Wednesday 20 February 2pm**

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

1. Treat roses as needed for pests and diseases and deadhead spent flowers.
2. Stake dahlias, chrysanthemums and other perennials before they get too tall.
3. Prune and deadhead rhododendrons after flowering and look for thrips later in the month and treat if needed.
4. Pot up or plant out tuberous begonias once the new shoots are showing plenty of leaves.
5. Hoe weeds when they are very small and use mulches to help suppress.
6. Prune to shape fuchsias and pinch back new growth to keep the plants more compact.
7. Daffodil leaves can be cut back once they show signs of drying off.

### Vegetable Garden

1. Pip fruit may need to be thinned and treat for codling moth and black spot.
2. Harvest berries and currents as they ripen.
3. Continue to plant successive green vegetables.
4. Sow parsnips for Winter but make sure not to allow the ground to dry out to ensure a good germination.
5. Plant leeks
6. Wait for the leaves of the garlic to fall over before lifting and drying off.
7. Tie up tomatoes and look on the underside of the leaves for any sign of the psyllid.
8. Plant peppers, chillies, cucumbers and pumpkins
9. Feed citrus and keep them well

watered, also mulch around the drip line.

### Lawns

1. Treat for broad leaf weeds.
2. Repair any bare areas.
3. Treat for grass grub if it has been a problem.
4. Fertilise after you have treated for weeds and pests.
5. Trim back the edges to keep them even.
6. Cut regularly but not too low.





**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



## Christmas Gardens

**Wednesday 5 December 1.30pm**

Three large private gardens in Springston followed by a pre Christmas afternoon tea. None of the gardens have been viewed before and are a real "must see".

**\$10pp** self drive.

Register now at the CHS office. tel: 366 6937  
[office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz)

Try out a local garden this Summer. **Coniston**, a CHS prizewinning garden is a one acre property in Avonhead with mature trees and an expansive lawn surrounded by woodland areas. Japanese

maples, rhododendrons, camellias and a rose garden feature alongside a pond (plus orchard and vegetable plot).  
**\$8 pp, groups welcome (10 and over \$5 pp).**  
Visit by app tel: 358 7794 027 414 3517

## CHS Tours 2018 Year in Review



The tour programme for the past year has consisted of eight tours ranging from half day local tours through to the High Country, Hurunui and Darfield areas. Longer tours included, Autumn Colours to Central Otago and more recently, Queensland, all of which many members have been able to participate and enjoy.

I extend my sincere thanks to the garden hosts and members, for without your support it would not be possible to offer such an interesting range of itineraries. I wish you all a very safe and happy festive season. *Photos below from the year that was*



## ALL ABOUT GARDENING FEBRUARY

**Monday 4th 7pm & Tuesday 5th 9.45am**

**Catherine Fink, Occupational Therapist from Thrive** will be talking about Ageing Well in the Garden - including: ergonomics, preventing falls, maximising your energy capacity and health benefits of gardening into older age.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

*Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place*

*\$5 \$10 non-members, includes tea, coffee & biscuits*



2018 year has been an interesting, stimulating and challenging, from moving the CHS office to my home in April to meeting new and old members at All About Gardening, arranging interesting speakers who entertained and extended us all.

2019 will continue with a list of great speakers including **Anthony Shadbolt**, CCC, (Landscaping in public areas) **Steve Bush** (Trees for Canterbury), **Jane**

**Lancaster** (Innovation in the food and agriculture industry, food safety and food regulations) this will be a speaker not to miss.

I look forward to seeing you all at AAG in the New Year and I thank you for your support over the past year. **Liz Parder**, Office Manager

