



LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!

2019 EDIBLE GARDEN AWARDS

An initiative between the CHS and Christchurch City Council, 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.

If you live in either the **Spreydon-Cashmere** or **Linwood-Central-Heathcote** wards there is still time to enter. Remember you can always nominate a neighbour (just ask them first!)

more online at: www.chsgardens.co.nz/ediblegardens

Nominations Close
Friday 8 February
Linwood-Central-Heathcote
Monday 11 February
Spreydon-Cashmere

WHAT'S COMING UP FEBRUARY & MARCH EVENTS

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

GARDENING QUESTIONS?

Head to the Horticultural Hub for answers! Every Wednesday and Sunday, between 1-4pm (for February & March) the shop end of the Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre becomes a Hub for gardening advice and inspiration.

The friendly folk 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.

GREEN THUMBS RADIO

Monday 11 February 9am

Out & About with the Canterbury Horticultural Society

Catch up with CHS Vice President Ray King and Annette Hill as they chat live on Plains FM 96.9 for "Canterbury through the Seasons". Ray and Annette interview some really interesting people and offer great gardening advice.

SUMMER IN THE STYX

Sunday 18 February 11am - 3pm

Styx River Reserve, 303 Radcliffe Road, Belfast, Christchurch - Free

Explore one of Christchurch's brand new Regional Parks with the Styx Living Laboratory Trust. Try a range of fun activities related to environment, research and citizen science involving local wildlife, plants, water quality, and local history.

Food & refreshments available

CHS AGM

Monday 18 March 7.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Nomination of candidates for President, Vice President and (4-6) Board Members, items of general business and any notice of motion must be received at the CHS office no later than fourteen (14) days before the AGM with confirmation in writing from the nominated member. Nominations must be signed by 2 financial members and any notice of motion must be signed by 2 Financial/Honorary Life Members.

The Agenda, President's Report, Annual Accounts and Auditor's Report will be available from the CHS Office 7 days prior to the meeting by request, and at the meeting. Nomination forms are available from the CHS office and online:

www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm



ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS *Progress Report from Mary Tingey*



This year we welcomed Burnside Primary School, Hornby Primary School, South Hornby School, Russley School and Avonhead School. The list of schools continues to grow,

Breens Intermediate, Bishopdale School and Wigram Primary School have joined the programme for 2019 taking the participation up to 25 schools.

At **Casebrook Intermediate** the orchard is flourishing and the fruit on the prune plums, peaches and

pears has set. All the trees looked healthy and the school has installed a watering system under the trees.

Two years ago, just after **Rawhiti School** was built, there was a patch of sand and a huge pile of scrub. This is now a wonderful orchard; the trees are thriving and the plum trees are laden with set fruit.



Morgan said *"Its really cool how all the community come and help us plant everything we have now."*

At **Riccarton Primary School** the children made smoothies, upside down cake and crumble from some of their long established black boy peach trees. *Sebastian said, "I love the smell of the garden."*

When I visited **Chisnallwood Intermediate School** in November the apple trees were in full flower and the plum trees had a good crop developing.

The **Isleworth School** orchard is next to a flourishing vegetable garden. When I visited the apple trees were in blossom. The children said,

"It's fun looking after the fruit trees and vegetables. We love eating the strawberries. Our garden looks nice and luscious. It's a good feeling because we can say 'I grew that'. It tastes better when you grow it yourself."

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Monday 18 February 6pm

David and Robyn Purcell's home

General cultural notes, pest control and bud securing of lates.

Bring something for a pot luck tea.

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

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 5 February 12pm

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 21 February 3.45 - 5pm

Terra Viva Home & Garden
242 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

HERB SOCIETY

Thursday 28 February 10am-12pm

Craft Room, Avic Hill Craft Centre
395 Memorial Avenue

MEMBERSHIP SUBS

There are still quite a few subs outstanding. Please pay as soon as possible.

Membership cards for those who have paid their sub (and requested a card) can be collected at All About Gardening or from the CHS office.

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.

If you have changed your email address please let Liz in the office know office@chsgardens.co.nz.

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*

We are now in Summer with plenty of hot weather and the usual periods of wind and little rain, all of which puts stress on plants and gives us the problem of keeping them growing and healthy.

Most of the berry fruits are finishing and the stone fruits are reaching their main production now, then to follow is the pip fruit.

The fruit crops that we are harvesting now are the results of the cultivation that we gave them over the last Winter and Spring so if the results are not up to expectations then review what was done to identify what needs to be done to improve the next crop.

Although winter is still a long way off we do need to be prepared. Spring bulbs will soon be in the garden centres but it is still too soon to plant most of them so choose the best quality bulbs and keep them until the time is right in the Autumn.

Most of the tasks around the garden at this time of the year is what I call maintenance gardening; weeding, watering, pest and disease control and of course, harvesting.



The **Waitakiri School** Orchard is an active play space. The trees and gardens all have wooden edgings which allow children and trees to share the space. There was a heavy fruit set of apples and a good fruit set on the peaches and pears. Vegetable gardens held luxurious crops of potatoes and spring onions.

On my visit to **Fendalton Open Air School** in a lovely relaxed atmosphere, a class was busy in the garden and orchard, with groups making kale chips, watering, weeding or collecting leaves for compost.

The understory of the **St Martins School** orchard is a wonderful example of diversity. In Winter Howard Keene and the children composted under the trees and have added sage and lavender. They worked with Allan Paterson from CHS to prune their trees in Winter.

The children of **Burnside Primary School** made the wooden edgings

around the trees and painted them bright yellow. They are going to sow Yates Bee Pasture pollen and nectar mix under the trees.

Due to their rebuild **Addington School** had to move four trees while they were in leaf. Miraculously three trees survived and are growing strongly.

Cobham Intermediate School's trees and garden look luxuriant. The peach trees have their first crop and with good fruit set on the apples. The SPEC group makes worm tea from egg cartons, food scraps, and egg shells.



In the depths of winter, Allan Paterson from CHS and I moved the trees at the **Kaiapoi Borough School** from the lower field up to the new play area by the rebuilt school. The trees have loved their move to the new, sunnier, warmer site and are growing strongly.

It's very exciting to be part of the Orchards in School project and to see so many children enjoy being in the outdoors growing food. Mary Tingey

If your school is interested in joining the programme please contact the CHS Office on tel: 366 6937

RAMBLERS

Tuesday 12 February 9.45am

Fendalton

Meet Park end of Waiwetu St

Tuesday 26 February 9.45am

Ilam

Meet Annandale Park, Carruthers St

No walk if wet. FREE

2019 Programme available now:

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROUP

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 GROUP

Wednesday 20 February 2pm

New members welcome.

Contact the CHS office for location

Tel: 366 6937

Email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

See the latest creations online:

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

Flower Garden

1. Keep dead heading roses, dahlias, perennials and annuals to encourage more flowers.
2. Stake up taller plants before they get too tall and full over.
3. Thrips are around so treat susceptible plants now to prevent leaf damage later.
4. Container growing plants will benefit from weekly liquid feeds to compensate for the extra watering leaching out nutrients.
5. Weed regularly as weeds grow quick to reduce competition.
6. Water as needed but before the plants show signs of stress.

Vegetable Garden

1. Water regularly to keep plants growing without stress.
2. Harvest beans, peas, tomatoes etc. when they are at their best condition.
3. Check tomatoes, potatoes and peppers for any signs of the psyllid and treat if needed.
4. Leeks should now be planted. Keep well fed and watered to keep them growing without any stress.
5. Berry fruit may have the old fruiting stems removed so that the new growth that will give next seasons crop can grow better.
6. Strawberries will still be fruiting, give regular liquid feeds to keep them growing.
7. Plant Winter brassicas now but watch

for the white butterfly.

8. Carrots may still be sown to give Winter supply.

Lawns

1. Cut weekly but not too low.
2. Water regularly; give a good soaking rather than a sprinkle on top (about once a week).
3. Grass will respond to a feed now.
4. Look for signs of any fungus infection, treat if needed or reduce watering to stop the spread.

HERBS FOR PEST & DISEASE CONTROL

Canterbury Herb Society



- **Basil** is good for tomato fly
- **Borage** is good for tomatoes & attracts bees.
- **Calendula** tomatoes and attracts bees
- **Camomile** cabbage and onions
- **Caraway** peas
- **Chervil** radishes
- **Dill** cabbage
- **Fennel** green aphid
- **Garlic** silver blight, aphid, codlin moth
- **Horseradish** potatoes
- **Hyssop** cabbage-butterfly, grapes
- **Marjoram** tomatoes, cucumbers
- **Nasturtium** woolly aphid
- **Parsley** roses, tomatoes, honey bees
- **Pennyroyal** ants, plant lice
- **Peppermint** cabbage butterfly, ants
- **Rosemary, Sage & Southernwood** cabbage butterfly, ants, carrot fly
- **Stinging nettles** black fly, aphid, plant lice, mildew
- **Tansy** ants, flies, moths
- **Tagetes** nematode, whitefly

Try chives and/or garlic and banana skin mulch around roses.

Put a ring of garlic around fruit tree trunks and foxgloves as a growth stimulant.

Use garlic and nasturtiums as soil disinfectants.

For more great ideas with herbs visit: www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/resources/herb-of-the-month

RAMBLERS News

The late November Ramble was through Charlesworth Reserve that is a restored tidal wetland where extensive native tree, shrubs and marsh plants have been planted over a number of years.

Eleven ramblers enjoyed this outing on an overcast morning where some unusual plants and birds were on view.

The final Ramble for the year was in the red zone of Avonside starting from Woodham Park. Avonside is one of the oldest parts of our city that suffered badly in the earthquakes. The area has been cleared of buildings and left with trees and shrubs to grow in their glory which are a stunning show as the seasons change. This Ramble finished with a picnic morning tea at which a presentation was made to Elizabeth Peacock for her years of leading the Ramblers Walks.



COMING UP AT ALL ABOUT GARDENING

MARCH

Monday 4th 7pm & Tuesday 5th 9.45am

Dr Antony Shadbolt, Team Leader
- Biodiversity from the Parks Unit
Christchurch City Council is our March speaker.

Also in the programme,
Gardening Half Hour.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
\$5 members, \$10 non-members
Includes tea, coffee & biscuits

APRIL

Monday 1st 7pm & Tuesday 2nd 9.45am

Steve Bush joins us from, **Trees for Canterbury** - more than just a nursery for plants! Steve participated in our 2018 Winter Speaker Series where he spoke about what Trees for Canterbury have done and where they are at today, including what they do other than just growing native plants.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

New Location! Join us for the inaugural All About Gardening meeting at The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens (just over the footbridge from the Armagh St carpark).
\$5 members \$10 non-members. Includes tea, coffee & biscuits

