ALL ABOUT GARDENING SEPTEMBER

Monday 2nd 7pm & Tuesday 3rd 9.45am
Greg Byrnes, Te Kohaka Trust
Greg Byrnes has been involved in a number of voluntary organisations and political causes over the years and is a passionate advocate for the environment. His career objective is to utilise his knowledge and experience to influence; and bring about change in the way New Zealanders engage with nature and conservation.

He has worked for many local, regional and central government agencies in Australasia during his career in the environment, parks and recreation management.

In November 2010 he was appointed to his current position as General Manager at Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust.

His talk is followed by Gardening Half Hour with Michael Coulter.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens (just over the footbridge from the Armagh St car park).

$5 members $10 non-members
Includes tea, coffee & biscuits
Colour your world – or even just your neighbourhood. The call is out to New Zealanders to bring back flowers and create a riot of colour in gardens this October for National Gardening Week.

Flowers are not just decorative. They provide food for the bees and butterflies. They taste good in salads and teas and for centuries, flowers have been used to heal.

To celebrate National Gardening Week Yates are giving away packets of flower seeds, including flowers for colour, flowers for the bees and butterflies and flowers that are perfect for picking.

Just get in touch at: lovemygarden@yates.co.nz

And if you send Yates your pict and stories of what you got up to during the week (by 8 November) you’ll go into the draw to win one of five gardening hampers valued at over $250!

Send to lovemygarden@yates.co.nz

National Gardening Week aims to foster a love of gardening with a focus on growing not only plants but friendships, good health, strong communities and closer connections with nature.

If your club is keen to flower-bomb a patch in your community that needs a splash of colour, or you have a special flower project in mind for National Gardening Week, Yates will be happy to help out with some extra packets of seeds and colourful bunting.

Just get in touch at: lovemygarden@yates.co.nz

And if you send us your pics and stories of what you got up to during National Gardening Week (by 8th November) you'll go into the draw to win one of five gardening hampers valued at over $250!

Send to lovemygarden@yates.co.nz.

Bordering with Bishopdale there is an established mix of homes and gardens. This area was farmland in early Christchurch with market gardens, berry fields and orchards. Nowadays you are more likely to find sculptures than produce!

FLower Power
21-28 October 2019

Gardening & horticulture questions answered: facebook.com/groups/CHShortTalk

CHRYSANTHEMUMS
Saturday 28 September 1.30pm
The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens
Chrysanthemum Propagation Workshop
Growing new plants from cuttings and division. Free, all welcome

GARDEN CLUB REPS
Tuesday 3 September 12.30pm
The Kiosk
Christchurch Botanic Gardens

JUNIOR GARDENERS
Thursday 20 September 3.45 - 5pm
David Adam’s Home
391 Pound Road

GREAT LIBRARY SEED & PLANT SWAP
Back for September 2019

Over the month of September - bring along your excess or unwanted seeds, plants, gardening equipment, garden ornaments, magazines and books to donate for others and find a new garden treasure for yourself

If you can’t make it on the day donations happily accepted before the event.

Participating Libraries
Matuku Takotako
Sumner Centre
Mon 2 to Sun 8 September (during library opening hours)
Shirley Library
Fri 6 & Sat 7 September (during library opening hours)
Fendalton Library
Sat 7 & Mon 9 September (during library opening hours)
Lyttelton Library
Sat 7 to Sat 14 September (during library opening hours)
Hornby Library
Mon 9 September, 2pm - 5pm
New Brighton Library
Mon 9 to Sun 15 September
Redwood Library
Fri 13 September, 10am to 6pm
Sat 14 September, 10am to 1pm
Tūranga
Sat 14 September, 10am to 5pm
Linwood Library at Eastgate
Sat 14 to Sun 22 September (during library opening hours).
Papanui Library
Sat 21 September, 10am to 4pm
South Library
Sat 21 & Sun 22 September 10am to 2pm

Parklands Library
Mon 23 to Sat 28 September (during library opening hours)
Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre
Mon 23 to Sat 28 September (during library opening hours)

RAMBLERS
July

Burnside’s Ramble in late July was a dreary overcast day yet there was a good group out for the Ramble around Nunweek Park and surrounding streets. Large trees in their Winter splendor surround part of the parks many sports and hockey fields the park is renown for.

Large trees in their Winter splendor surround part of the park's many sports and hockey fields. The park is renown for.
HERB OF THE MONTH

Chickweed - *Stellaria media*

A real nuisance once it gets into your garden, this plant does have its uses! Originally native to Europe and Asia it now grows wild throughout much of the world preferring cultivated moist soils but is not fussy, becoming variable in size and habit.

Buried seeds are known to retain their viability for at least 25 years and the plant can even flower and ripen seeds under snow! Don’t let it flower or you will have it forever!

In cool moist conditions it forms a dense green mat and is difficult to pull out while hoed plants quickly re-root. Beware!

Yes, a nuisance in your garden, but it can be handy in the Winter. Wild and caged birds eat chickweed but do make sure no flowers or seeds are available as the seeds pass through and germinate in their droppings. Pigs, rabbits, cows and horses will eat it, sheep are indifferent to it while goats refuse to touch it.

However, you can add young chickweed tops to salads, and if you cook it very quickly it tastes a bit like spinach.

“There is a use for all things”

Canterbury HERB Society Next Meeting

**Thursday 26 September 7pm**

Avice Hill Arts and Craft Centre

395 Memorial Ave

All Welcome

Visit the HERB Society Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/CANHERBSOC](http://www.facebook.com/CANHERBSOC)

A visit to the Danish Copenhagen Bakery was a nice treat afterwards.

A crisp start and clear skies greeted Ramblers for the South Brighton outing.

After recent rains the ramble had to be re-thought and kept mostly to street paths.

Gardens showed signs of the harsh conditions seaside gardens have to endure. There has been a quite a mix of rebuilds in the area since the earthquakes with newly landscaped sections. In Pine Ave the Cordyline australis were really struggling along the street berms.

The return to the cars was via the South Brighton Domain and Estuary Walkway to Bridge Street. Everyone endured a mix of tar seal, shingle and mud on this cross country Ramble.

September sees the Ramblers exploring Halswell and The Groynes.

**THE GREAT NZ JUNIPER HUNT**

Juniper berries are an essential ingredient in the production of gin (and sauerkraut). Presently, all juniper berries used in NZ for commercial purposes are imported and supply is pretty much by collecting from the wild.

We know Juniperus communis linnaeus stock was brought into NZ in the 70’s and 80’s - primarily for use as ornamental trees in gardens. The trees are dioecious, so unless they were planted in close proximity then no cones would have appeared.

Massey University and Juno Gin are working together to find any remaining trees. Massey is undertaking genetic assaying of the trees – to confirm we have the correct species (the wrong species can be toxic) and that we have enough genetic diversity to establish a production platform.

They have found just over 19 trees to date. From these they have taken 34 cuttings which are being rooted by Cedar Lodge Nurseries, New Plymouth. It’s expected they will be planted out next year.

From there, these trees will have further cuttings taken, rooted and planted out to establish what is hoped will be the first commercial orchard of Juniper trees in the world.

This will be a huge advantage to our gin industry and for export opportunities, as provenance and core quality can be defined.

The other interesting aspect with NZ grown botanicals is there appears to be a terroir effect when the plants are grown in different locations – we would expect to see a similar effect with the cones from the juniper trees; lending itself to specific area flavoured gins, like grapes do for wine in France.

To contribute visit the project on iNaturalist


Or, if it’s easier, send photos directly to Eve Kawana-Brown at Massey University

E.Kawana-Brown@massey.ac.nz

**RAMBLERS**

**Tuesday 10 September 9.45am**

**Halswell**

Meet Domain carpark, William Brittan Ave

**Tuesday 24 September 9.45am**

**The Groynes**

Meet in carpark by Bridge

No walk if wet. FREE

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

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

**FLORAL DESIGN**

No meeting this month

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

New members welcome.

October’s meeting will look at the Shape of the Container

See the latest creations online:

[https://flic.kr/s/aHsm3HUR3N](https://flic.kr/s/aHsm3HUR3N)

Juniper berries are an essential ingredient in the production of gin (and sauerkraut).

Presently, all juniper berries used in NZ for commercial purposes are imported and supply is pretty much by collecting from the wild.

We know Juniperus communis linnaeus stock was brought into NZ in the 70’s and 80’s – primarily for use as ornamental trees in gardens. The trees are dioecious, so unless they were planted in close proximity then no cones would have appeared.

Massey University and Juno Gin are working together to find any remaining trees. Massey is undertaking genetic assaying of the trees – to confirm we have the correct species (the wrong species can be toxic) and that we have enough genetic diversity to establish a production platform.

They have found just over 19 trees to date. From these they have taken 34 cuttings which are being rooted by Cedar Lodge Nurseries, New Plymouth. It’s expected they will be planted out next year. From there, these trees will have further cuttings taken, rooted and planted out to establish what is hoped will be the first commercial orchard of Juniper trees in the world.

This will be a huge advantage to our gin industry and for export opportunities, as provenance and core quality can be defined.

The other interesting aspect with NZ grown botanicals is there appears to be a terroir effect when the plants are grown in different locations – we would expect to see a similar effect with the cones from the juniper trees; lending itself to specific area flavoured gins, like grapes do for wine in France.

To contribute visit the project on iNaturalist


Or, if it’s easier, send photos directly to Eve Kawana-Brown at Massey University

E.Kawana-Brown@massey.ac.nz

A visit to the Danish Copenhagen Bakery was a nice treat afterwards.

A crisp start and clear skies greeted Ramblers for the South Brighton outing.

After recent rains the ramble had to be re-thought and kept mostly to street paths.

Gardens showed signs of the harsh conditions seaside gardens have to endure. There has been a quite a mix of rebuilds in the area since the earthquakes with newly landscaped sections. In Pine Ave the Cordyline australis were really struggling along the street berms.

The return to the cars was via the South Brighton Domain and Estuary Walkway to Bridge Street. Everyone endured a mix of tar seal, shingle and mud on this cross country Ramble.

September sees the Ramblers exploring Halswell and The Groynes.
FROM THE PRESIDENT Ray King

The daffodils are starting to appear in Hagley Park and the birds are busy pulling my fibre baskets to bits for their nests, soon we will see the cherry blossoms and know that Spring is finally here. It is such a lovely time of year and we are so lucky in Christchurch to have the benefit of all four seasons so we see the progress of nature. You will notice that we finally have our signage up correctly. It is a smart, clear sign that can be seen from a distance.

Slow progress is being made; we now have our refurbished board tables which means we can put some of the grey plastic tables away and the kitchen plans are moving ahead slowly.

Some of the events to look forward to this month are firstly a great All About Gardening talk from Greg Byrnes who is so passionate about the regeneration of the sand hills north of the Waimakariri River, he is also putting in a display to demonstrate just what they are doing with their bio-nodes.

Annette Hill is going to teach young gardeners about micro greens so if you have grandchildren who love growing things keep an eye on the Facebook page for details.

Eat Your Weeds still has a few places left for those keen to find out what you can do with weeds which are so easy to grow! The Intermediate Hortskills course starts this week, and of course don’t forget the Margaret Watling demonstration on November 14. Presales (for Members) will be available at All About Gardening, and throughout September. Tickets for the general public go on sale 1 October.

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS Michael Coulter

September is the month in which Spring growth really gets going. The Spring bulbs are in full bloom and deciduous plants come into life.

The weather is still very changeable and there is always the danger of frosts that can damage new growth; this makes for a very busy time in the garden.

Ground preparation for sowing seeds and transplanting seedlings should be completed, old Winter crops removed to make way for Summer plantings and the last of Winter pruning completed.

Some Summer flowering perennials such as chrysanths, dahlias, carnations, petunias etc. can be propagated by cuttings using the fresh new growth.

Gladiola corms can be planted and the begonia corms started off in a well draining potting mix with the top of the corn level with the potting mix.

As the flowers finish on the bulbs and annuals remove the dead flowers to encourage more flower and bulb growth.

Weeds also grow at a fast rate now making weeding one of the important tasks, otherwise they will smother our plants.

The lawns will start to grow more rapidly and will benefit from some fertiliser, weed control, moss control and regular mowing.

Fruit trees are beginning to flower and come into leaf at this time. They will need to have some treatment for pests and diseases that will effect the fruit later on.

In the vegetable garden planting and seed sowing starts with the more hardier types peas, carrots, lettuce, silverbeet, beetroot, cabbage etc. Plan the garden so that the crops are producing in succession and you have a continuous supply.

Early potatoes may be planted and main crop potatoes chitted for planting later on.

In unheated green houses tomatoes and other tender plants may be planted.

Choose only the sturdiest well grown plants to get the best results.

Spring flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned as soon as they have finished flowering.

Citrus should be given their Spring fertiliser just as they move into growth and any pruning done to keep their shape and to allow air to flow through the plant.