



Meri Kirihimete And a bountiful New Year

Photo credit: Freya Flora wedding flowers, Melissa Grace Photography

Events coming up at The Kiosk Green Thumbs Podcast

Monday 13 December 9am Plains FM96.9
Ray and Lorraine talk to Caitlin Thorburn from Freya Flora about creative floristry.

Bot Tots

Mondays 10 - 11.30am (last session 13 Dec)
Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. Drop-in during school term time (gold coin entry). [Facebook Event](#)

Botanical Photography

Thursday 10 February 7pm - 9pm
Tutors - Alan Jolliffe and Michael Coulter
Tame your camera and release your creative talent! Want to take better nature photos? This workshop will introduce participants to photographing flowers and plants in interesting and creative ways, considering both narrative and the practicalities of macro photography. Camera type is not important so come along with your phone or a DSLR.
\$40 (\$50 non-members).
Bookings open mid December

HortSkills 2022

Our next HortSkills evening class will be coming up February/March next year. It will follow on from the November 'Horticulture at Home' course.
Keep an eye out for dates.

Floristry Foundations

Mondays starting from 21 February
12.30pm - 2.30pm for 6 weeks

Discover your passion for flowers in this beginner's floristry course. Tutored by botanical stylist, Caitlin Joy from Freya Flora this 6 week course is the perfect place to launch your floral creativity. Providing the skills and knowledge needed to improve your techniques, and explore contemporary design. At the end of the course you will have the confidence to design flowers for events and commercial activities as well as for leisure and home.

Each week you'll get to take home your unique creations. Suitable for future florists, designers or creative amateurs keen on floral art. All flowers and materials provided.

Complimentary tea and coffee throughout the session.

\$860 (\$1000 non-members)
Bookings open mid December

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request to volunteer - for both the Edible & Sustainable Garden Awards and as a Kiosk volunteer. We have had an excellent response and now have adequate numbers.

DECEMBER ONLINE AAG CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Monday 6th December 7pm
Live from The Kiosk

Join us for a live
end-of-year
wrap up.



Featuring:

Gardener's Q&A Panel; Sustainable Christmas Gift ideas and Giveaways!

This will be held via Zoom. If you don't have access to the internet (or Zoom) then why not get together with a CHS member who does and have a small gathering for viewing on the night - make it festive.

An official email invitation will be sent out to members to register (registered members will go in the give-away draw so don't forget!)

Keep an eye on your in-box.

ps, The Kiosk is getting our first Christmas Tree!



Mona Vale Guided Walks

Saturday 11 & Sunday 26 December 1.30pm

Meet at the Rose Garden entrance by the car park. 90 minutes duration. *Free*

Free Daily Guided Walks

Meet at The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens 1.30pm (walks are approx 45 mins).

Wed 1 Our Herbaceous Border

Thu 2 Curator's House Potager Garden

Fri 3 NZ Gardens – NZ natives

Sat 4 Leonard Cockayne Mem Garden

Sun 5 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Mon 6 Gondwana Collection

Tue 7 NZ Gardens – NZ natives

Wed 8 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Thu 9 Curator's House Potager Garden

Fri 10 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Sat 11 Rock & Crevice Garden

Sun 12 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Mon 13 Our Herbaceous Border

Tue 14 Plant Hunters

Wed 15 Our Herbaceous Border

Thu 16 History Walk – Armstrong Lawn

Fri 17 NZ Gardens – NZ natives

Sat 18 Leonard Cockayne Mem Garden

Sun 19 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Mon 20 Conservatories

Tue 21 Leonard Cockayne Mem Garden

Wed 22 Notable Trees

Thu 23 Prince of Plants – the noble palm

Fri 24 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Sat 25 No walk – CHRISTMAS DAY

Sun 26 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Mon 27 Plant Hunters – trees & their stories

Tue 28 NZ natives – esp divaricating plants

Wed 29 Notable trees

Thu 30 Prince of plants – the noble palm

Fri 31 Notable trees

Spring Talk Series

The Art and Craft of Beekeeping

Sunday 20 February 4pm, The Kiosk

Paul O'Donnell and Gordon Nairn, Hobbyist Beekeepers' Club

\$5 Friends & CHS (\$10 non-members)

Garden Tour

Sunday 20 March 2pm

Visit to Frensham Garden, Tai Tapu

\$15 per person (add a delicious afternoon tea for \$13). Contact the Friends to book.

friendsofthegardens@gmail.com

The Christchurch Envirohub is a meta-organisation to provide support for environmental and community groups in the wider Christchurch area. If you would like to find out what support is available for your environmental or community organisation, email info@chchenvirohub.org.

You're also welcome to contact Kat by telephone: 021 744 909.

Envirohub have regular events and often help connect and coordinate other organisations with events. Their new [website](#) is now live and is a great resource, or visit the Facebook page [here](#).

Christchurch Envirohub run an **Envirokids** programme. Pop into The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens on Saturdays between 10am - 3pm even in the school holidays. Activities are provided and inspired by organisations in the Envirohub Network for primary and intermediate aged children with help from the Envirokids facilitator, Kate. Check out the Facebook page [here](#).

Floral Design

Next meeting Wednesday 16 February 2pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 8 December 10am

All welcome, BYO materials

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Garden Club Reps

Tuesday 7 December 10.00am

The Kiosk, Chch Botanic Gardens

End of year meeting.

Three Lincoln Gardens & Christmas afternoon tea at Tai Tapu. \$15pp

Wednesday 15 December 12.45pm

The Reps welcome CHS Members & Friends on an end of year outing. Contact Gail to RSVP:

gail.scrivener@xtra.co.nz

Junior Gardeners

Thursday 16 December 3.45pm

Meet at The Kiosk for an informative and fun horticultural session. Aimed at children aged 7 - 12 years.

New children welcome.

Please contact us beforehand on

office@chsgardens.co.nz.



Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

December is a very busy time in the garden! Berry fruit are ripening, plants are growing fast and the first of the stone fruit are ready. Regular weeding and watering are most important at this stage if we expect to get the best from our flowers and vegetables.

Once the tops of the spring bulbs have died off bulbs may be lifted and stored ready to be planted later, only keep the firm sound bulbs. Lilies will need to be staked as they get taller, especially if they are in a windy place.

I have noticed the brown beetle of the grass grub and some moths of the porina caterpillar flying about at night so the lawns will be ready for treatment in the next few weeks.

Roses and apple trees can be treated for black spot and rusts now. Use a combination fungicide/insecticide spray to keep plants pest free of both fungi and insects. One of the most important matters about the use of sprays in the garden is to read the instructions and follow them. Always be aware of the presence of bees (and other desirable insects) and in the case of weed killers, wanted plants that could be harmed.

Tomatoes, potatoes and peppers growing outside need to be treated or protected from the Psyllid that will be around now. Glass house tomatoes can also be attacked by the Psyllid so while removing the laterals or picking fruit look for the insects and spray if needed.

The use of mulches around plants will help to keep the roots cool and moist and

suppress weeds during this hotter time of the summer.

Use water wisely by avoiding watering on very windy days, just watering around the root zone of plants and use a timer on the tap so not to over water (I find that one hour on a sprinkler or soak hose is enough). A regular system or rotation around the garden is better than leaving watering until the plants become too dry and show signs of stress.

This time of the year one can see the results of hard work in and around the garden so take time to step back and have a look at your garden and the gardens of others and enjoy the results of your labours.

Post problems on [HortTalk](#) or email coulтчrys@xtra.co.nz

Merry Christmas to you all, **Michael Coulter**

Farewell Mary Tingey

We enjoyed a very pleasant farewell to our Orchards in Schools Co-ordinator, Mary Tingey last week. After an impressive six years in the role Mary is departing to join whanau in the North Island.



Mary Tingey with Allan Paterson & CHS President, Ray King

An instrumental force in establishing the extensive programme, during her tenure Mary helped over 30 schools establish orchards.

From planting to pruning to bottling, the journey from tree to tummy has been highly rewarding, for both the school children and Mary herself. Her [seasonal](#)

[newsletters](#) are a testament to this, and full of wonderful stories of engaged children.

We are very sad to farewell Mary and wish her all the very best in her ventures up North (where she already has some gardening projects with the local community lined up!)

Mary's legacy is being taken up by Rachel Oliver, you know Rachel as programme Co-ordinator for the CHS. Rachel is very excited to be carrying on Mary's excellent work. With a background in teaching, specialising in Education Outside the Classroom, and running her own gardening business, Rachel hopes to share her passion for horticulture and inspire children to enjoy a lifelong love of gardening.



Watch a short video of Mary reflecting on her time in the role.

From the President

Here we are coming to the end of another turbulent year but there seems to be light (or traffic lights) at the end of the tunnel!

At this stage we can't say how any of this will affect how we manage The Kiosk on a day by day basis, however we are hoping to be able to welcome all our fully vaccinated members into a more normal routine in February.

What has been a great thing for The Kiosk has been all the wonderful workshops organised by Rachel, well attended even with Covid disruptions.

Rachel has accepted the position of Co-ordinator for our Orchards in Schools Programme and we're sure she will continue the wonderful work Mary has done on our behalf.

In the office, Sharnaé has been busy finalising the 2022 subscription invoices which will be sent out in the next week or so.

After two very disrupted years we are hoping to have a full programme running next year. Thank-you all for your patience.

President, **Ray King**

Chrysanthemum Circle

Saturday 11 December 6pm

Michael & Susan's home

Christmas Function - Pot Luck Tea

If you are a new Member and would like to attend please contact Robyn on tel: 942 9871

Fruit & Vegetables

Next meeting in January 2022

Picnic Tea at Phil and Linda Duckers

Date to be confirmed.

Another opportunity to have a look around their extensive garden.

Bring a plate to share, meat and drinks supplied by the group.

Ramblers

The Ramblers programme will recommence next year. Keep an eye out for the 2022 programme.

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

Contact: Alison Fussell tel: 027 251 3757

Herb of the Month

Elder (*Sambucus nigra*),

Elders are large, bushy shrubs or trees, and can grow up to six metres. They grow in both the city and countryside, favouring hedges, footpaths, motorway banks, railway lines, derelict land and domestic gardens.

Elderflower blooms are flat-headed sprays with the most wonderful flavour, that start to bloom in late spring. From the same tree, fully ripe elderberries are picked late in summer which are often used in cough syrup.

Elderflower starts to bloom in late spring and produce large creamy colour clumps of flat-headed sprays of hundreds of tiny, five-petaled, flowers with prominent stamens.

Elder grow mostly wild and flower

abundantly in the South Island during November. When in flower, the tiny white flowers have a delicate perfume, likened to lychees, honey and vanilla.

Pick fresh flowers from trees that don't grow on busy roads in which the petrol fumes might have spoiled the smell of the flowers. Flowers that are fully opened and haven't turned brown are what foragers should aim for. Best time to pick them would be in the morning on a sunny day. Snip off the flower heads with as little stalk as possible. Pick bugs / insects with your fingers from the flowers but don't wash the flowers or you'll wash the natural yeasts off as well.

If I'm able to source elderflowers, I enjoy making elderflower cordial, but it can also be used as the basis for other drinks like a very beneficial tea. The flower heads can be used to make fritters or to flavour cakes

but don't last well so should be used as soon as possible.

Elderflowers have wonderful medicinal properties as well. It is said they are packed with vitamin C, antioxidants and flavonoids that help deactivate viruses and fight inflammation. They have been used for centuries to help with cold, flu and respiratory conditions as well as seasonal allergies. Elderflowers in the bath make the bath smell wonderful too!

Supplied by [Canterbury HERB Society](#)

If you missed a Herb of the Month post catch up [here](#).

Monthly Meetings Avicé Hill Craft Centre, 395 Memorial Ave.

Thursday 2 December 6pm

Christmas dinner, please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Visitors welcome, \$5 per meeting.

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

Monthly gardening programme
for the everyday gardener

Coming up at All About Gardening

FEBRUARY 2022

Monday 7th 7pm & Tuesday 8th 9.30am

160th Anniversary Celebration

We're hopeful the February All About Gardening will kick off (an uninterrupted) year-long celebration of the 160th anniversary of the Canterbury Horticultural Society. We will be delving into the history of the club and it's evolution through the years with stunning images and entertaining stories. Free to all members and with a special supper and morning tea. Closer to the time we will ask Members to confirm their attendance.

VENUE

The Kiosk
Christchurch Botanic Gardens
(over footbridge - Armagh St car park).

*February AAG is free to members and \$10 to non-members.
Includes special supper/morning tea.*

[view the facebook event page](#)

BOT TOTS

Gold Coin Entry
per child

Gardening & Nature Themed activities for Preschoolers

Mondays during term time 10-11.30am at The Kiosk

Enjoy a simple craft activity with the CHS. All welcome, no bookings required. *Generously supported by Christchurch City Council.*

Art Deco Garden Party

Celebrate 100 years of the Kaiapoi Garden Club with an Art Deco Garden Party
Saturday 26 February 1.30-3.30pm



Wet or Fine at 'Lacebark' Moodys Rd, Clarkville

Promenade through the garden, listen to the music of the times and enjoy a range of entertainment. Plus a competition for best dressed!

Tickets: \$25 purchase from i-site Kaiapoi or contact Jenny for bank account details: tel 03 327 7762 rayjenk@xtra.co.nz

A great Christmas present!

up to
20% off
courses and
workshops for
Members

Sign-up
Online
chsgardens.co.nz

BECOME A MEMBER

Gardening & horticulture questions answered [facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk)