



The Art of the Indoor Plant

Autumn Workshops announced!



The Kiosk
Canterbury Horticultural Society

GIVEAWAY Time

Be in to WIN for Mum!

Tag your Mum (or one you know) and the CHS, in any social post about these workshops and go in the draw to win a place. (Mums can also tag their kids, sometimes they need reminding how great they are). Everyone who purchases a workshop place will go in the draw to win a surprise gift hamper full of gorgeous goodies.

Lovely Lilies Workshop

Tuesday 3 May 7-9pm

Make a stunning Lily Bouquet with Freya Flora and learn the art of bulb scaling with NZ Lily Society. Take home a beautiful hand tied bouquet; your choice of fragrant or not. A unique workshop and treat for Mothers young and old!

\$75 (\$94 non-members)

[Book online](#)

The Art of the Indoor Plant

Celebrate the world of indoor plants.

\$40 (\$50 non-members)

Macrame Plant Hangers

Thursday 5 May 7 - 9pm

Kokedama

Tuesday 10 May 7-9pm

Terrariums

Thursday 12 May 7-9pm

Online bookings open soon

Bot Tots

Mondays 10 - 11.30am (term time only)

Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. Drop-in during school term time (gold coin entry). [Facebook Event](#)

Green Thumbs Podcast

Monday 11 April 9am Plains FM96.9

Christchurch Botanic Gardens Guiding Coordinator **Susan Lawrence** joins us to talk more about this rewarding group.

Winter Vegetable Growing

Extra date announced!

Saturday 2 April 1.30 - 3.30pm

Richmond Community Gardens
Discover a range of easy-to-grow winter crops, different varieties and their suitability for large veggie plots, mixed gardens or containers.

\$40 (\$50 non-members).

[Book online](#)

Bulbs in Containers

Fully Booked

[Email the office to be added to the waitlist](#)

Introduction to Botanical Drawing

Wednesday 4 May 10am - 3pm

Drawing directly from the lush native and exotic foliage at the Christchurch Botanical Garden this workshop will offer students an introduction to the timeless beauty of botanical art. Tutored by Tabatha Forbes.

\$85 (\$105 non-members).

[Book online](#)

Chrysanthemum Competition

Local Growers

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 April 10am - 4pm

Enjoy a wonderful range of blooms from local Chrysanthemum growers. Ranging from delicate, threadlike flowers to enormous globes of featherlike petals.

Free

Paeony Tuber Sale

Saturday 30 April 10am

Christchurch Paeony Club welcome donations to this sale which enables them to run the Spring Paeony Show. [Find out more about getting involved online.](#)

From the President

This is the last time that I will be writing to you all as I have handed over the reins to Allan Paterson and your new Board. I will leave Allan (we all know him as Badger) to introduce you to his team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support for the staff and Board over the last difficult two years, I wish you all every happiness and feel certain that I am leaving you in good hands.

Best wishes,

Ray King

Incoming Presidents Message

A warm welcome to all CHS Members from your newest Board Member, To those who do not know me, my name is Allan Paterson. A huge thanks to Ray (and the Board) for your tireless contribution to the CHS in what could only be described as difficult times. I wish Ray more time for painting classes - and a well deserved rest. Also Dudley, many thanks to you for your input with the accounts. It's a pleasure to bring this new Board to you and we look forward to an ongoing development of the Society. **CHS 2022 Board:** Allan Paterson: *President*; Amy Wilson: *Vice President*; Kelly Perazzolo, Gail Scrivener and Hannah Bolton.

Free Mona Vale Guided Walks

Saturday 2 & 9, 30 April 1.30pm

Meet at the Rose Garden entrance.

Free Daily Guided Walks

Meet at The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens 1.30pm

Fri Apr 1 Prince of plants

Sat Apr 2 Gondwana Collection

Sun Apr 3 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Mon Apr 4 NZ Gardens – NZ natives

[View all the walks online.](#)

Winter Talk Series

Alpine Plants - Sunday 24 April 4pm

Suzanne Pickford, President of the NZ Alpine Garden Society, will talk about these popular plants.

Managing our water resources – what's

changing? - Friday 20 May 10:30am

Dr Terry Heiler, *PhD Ag. Eng.*

Dr Heiler will talk about the big changes taking place here and internationally to better manage water for future generations.

\$5 CHS Members, \$10 Non-members

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Providing support for environmental and community groups in Christchurch.

Christchurch Envirohub partner with Green drinks to host social events and help connect and coordinate other organisations with events. Head to their [website](#) to find out more or give their [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) a follow to keep up to date.

Christchurch Envirohub has just activated the new Riverlution Eco Hub at the Richmond community gardens. To check it out visit the [website](#).

Christchurch Envirokids programme runs at The Kiosk on Saturdays between 10am – 3pm. Activities are provided and inspired by organisations in the Envirohub Network for primary and intermediate aged children with help from the Envirokids facilitator, Kate. Visit the Envirokids Facebook page [here](#) for more information.

For more information contact Ben Alder

tel: 022 157 2413

benalder@chchenvirohub.org

www.chchenvirohub.org

Congratulations gardeners!

The following entrants gained Special Awards in the 2022 Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards.

Waikura Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community

Beginner Garden

Tiny Tots Nursery and Pre-School
Sumner Berry Garden
Micah Heath

Best Sustainability Features

Dave Bryce

Organic Garden

Richmond Community Garden (Fungi Farm)
Edible Canterbury
John Norton
Jo Drysdale

Fruit Tree Yield

Phillipstown Community Centre
Charitable Trust

Originality

Nancy Meherne

Tomatoes

Cholyn Abadilla

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 13 & 27 April 10am

All welcome, BYO materials

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Garden Club Reps

No meeting this month

Fruit & Vegetables

Wednesday 27 April 7.30pm

Speaker to be confirmed, The Kiosk

Floral Design

Wednesday 20 April 2pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

For April the floral art theme is; In a Suiban without a Kensan. The materials needed are five different branches about 75cm to a metre long, a flat dish (a Suiban) or something like a quiche dish or a lasagne dish. You may bring along a few flowers to finish off the arrangement.

Chrysanthemum Circle

Monday 18 April 7pm

Charlotte Robbs

General cultural notes. Preparing for the local show.

If you are a new Member and would like to attend please contact Robyn on

Tel: 942 9871

Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

April really is the start of Autumn, the leaves are changing colour and the mornings are cooler. I have been busy harvesting apples and tomatoes and also getting the last of my winter vegetable crops planted.

As the ground cools it's time to get the spring bulbs planted. Winter annuals will also need to be planted to get some growth before the onset of colder winter weather.

Lawns

Look for signs of fungi infection and treat if needed (bravo or thiram are effective).

Treat for grass grub, especially if you have a new lawn.

Do any repairs and top dressing to areas that have damage.

Mow each week but not too low and catch the clippings.

Feed the grass just as the autumn growth starts to build the plants up before winter.

Flower Garden

Remove summer annuals as they finish their flowering.

Plant spring bulbs

Cut back summer flowering perennials by about two thirds.

Take cuttings of pelargoniums to get plants for next season.

Fuchsia cuttings may be taken now.

Sweet peas sown now will give early flowers next season.

Plant poppies, pansies, violas, polyanthus, forget me nots and primulas for Winter and Spring flowers.

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

Remove any diseased or insect damaged fruit from trees or ground beneath trees.

Plant the last of the winter brassicas and treat for white butterfly.

Compost crop waste with autumn leaves to use next season.

Sow green crops on spare ground to improve the soil.

Remove the old fruiting canes of raspberries and give a copper spray for fungi diseases.

The first sowing of broad beans can be made at the end of the month.

Keep leeks well fed and weed free to get the best results.

Good Gardening, Michael Coulter

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

Yield and Fruit and Berries

Robin Furley

Waipapa Papanui-Innes Community

Beginner Garden

David Gardner

Organic Garden

Kelly Pope and Daniel Ready
Casebrook Intermediate School

Fruit and Berries

Bernie Lynskey
Sarah Morel
Unity Church

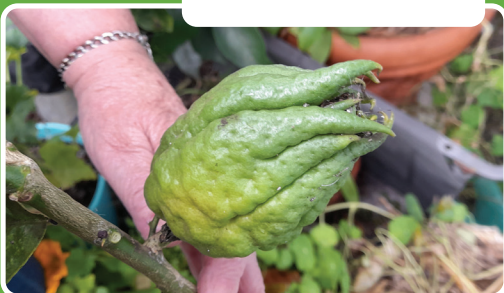
Tomatoes

Evans Family

Fruit Tree Yield

Margaret Howley

[See Photos on Flickr!](#)



From the Manager

Autumn is well and truly with us, thankfully, we are still having a few balmy days that linger on past Summer. It's good to appreciate the seasons, I'm a fan of the ever-changing colours of the falling leaves! I am really enjoying getting to know so many more of you – thanks for all your phone calls, emails and popping into The Kiosk from time to time to say hello.

It has been another interesting month, the gardens have been quiet, and people are clearly hunkering down through this outbreak of 'you-know-what'. For those of you who are attending our workshops, courses, zooms and who came along to our first session of Botanic Gardens Uncovered – thank you. We sure are missing our in-person All About Gardening meetings, however, it feels like we are getting closer to holding them again soon – including our long awaited 160th celebration!

I won't make any promises about when this will happen, yet it is looking optimistic to be sooner rather than later. I hope that when the time comes you will join with us once again.

Volunteers for April needed:

We are after a few helpful members to staff The Kiosk in April for two days Monday 18th and 25th (to cover Easter and Anzac Day). We are also needing a super-star member with a tow bar and trailer who can assist us on the weekend of 22-25th April for the local Chrysanthemum Show. This person is needed on the Friday and/or Monday. Please phone or email the CHS office if you are available in some capacity.

Members' Needed!

The CHS is working with the Templeton Residents Association to present the **Templeton Spring Flower Show** - to be held in September 2022. The show programme would be based on the very successful Woodend Spring Flower Show concept. We invite members of the CHS, especially those residing in the Templeton area, to form a committee to organise and manage the show. Please advise Sharnae in the CHS Office of your interest and willingness to be a member of this new committee.

Sharnae Beardsley CHS Manager

Tel: 03 366 6937 office@chsgardens.co.nz

Junior Gardeners

Thursday 21 April 3.45pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

New members welcome but please let us know when you are coming.

Free, but participants to bring their own face mask and gloves for handling potting mix.

Tel: 366 6937 office@chsgardens.co.nz

Ramblers

Tuesday 12 April 9.45am

Marshlands Meet Rananga Reserve near Korowai St

Tuesday 26 April 9.45am

The Groyne Meet in carpark

2022 Programme available now

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

Contact: Alison Fussell tel: 027 251 3757

Canterbury HERB Society

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 28 April 7pm

Avice Hill Craft Centre, 395 Memorial Avenue

Subscriptions to the Herb Society are \$15.

Visitors welcome: \$5 per meeting

www.facebook.com/CANHERBSOC

Herb of the Month

Common Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)

This is a popular culinary, medicinal and ornamental herb with a multitude of uses. It has silver-greyish leaves and bears attractive flowers which are purple-blue in colour. It is also a versatile drought-tolerant grey foliage plant and is very hardy as it often bounces back in the spring even after a severely cold winter. It grows well after a good prune and it prefers to grow in well-drained soil. It seems that the plant prefers having a shelter behind them. The purple-blue flowers attract beneficial insects. It is a perennial plant and should be cut back after flowering.

Sage goes well with fatty meats in particular like pork and poultry (duck and chicken) but also with pulses (eg chickpeas and beans).

It features in many Italian recipes such as ravioli stuffed with pumpkin and sage, liver and veal, and they use sage to flavour wonderful tomato dishes. They also wrap small game birds with sage before roasting.

Sage is in high esteem for health. It is an antiseptic, tonic and anti-fungal and it is said to aid digestion and help with blood circulation. It is even claimed it might be able to help control sugar blood levels according to <https://www.webmd.com/diet/health-benefits-sage>. Sip sage tea (pour 1 cup boiling water over 1 tablespoon coarsely fresh sage leaves, cover and infuse for about 15 minutes and strain) use it as a gargle for a sore throat or for mouth ulcers and infected gums. Or drink a tea sweetened with honey if wished.



Plant common sage as a companion plant in the garden close to carrots and cabbage as it is said it protects carrots against

the carrot-fly and cabbages against the cabbage moth and it grows well with rosemary as neighbour. Feel free to cut and arrange the blooms in a vase, or use the edible blue flowers to garnish food or serve in salads.

Click here for recipe: Butternut Pumpkin with Brown Butter, Sage and Pine Nuts

Supplied by [Canterbury HERB Society](#)

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

All About Gardening *But not as we know it!*

Online via Zoom

Monday 4 April, 7pm

Dave Adams will be presenting on Autumn Flowering Bulbs.

Followed by **How to deal with a glut!**

Fresh ideas and recipes with Dave and Rachel.

After this Michael Coulter and Dave Adams will answer your gardening questions.

From edibles to exotics - all queries welcome!

Please email questions to:

office@chsgardens.co.nz

(feel free to send in a photo too).

A Zoom invitation will be emailed on Friday 1 April and a reminder sent on the day.

Tuesday 5 April, 9.30am

Meet at The Kiosk (outside, rain or shine)

Botanic Gardens Uncovered

Join Collection curator Luke Martin for a walk through the New Zealand plant collection. Luke will point out the different ecosystems and plant communities represented in the collection and explain the conservation work carried out at the Botanic Gardens.

Luke has previously worked in a number of roles for the Department of Conservation (DOC) from Arthurs pass to Fiordland, the Chathams and Norfolk islands carrying out vegetation and bird surveys and working in the DOC nursery at Motukarara. Luke completed his horticultural apprenticeship at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, returning in 2018 as the Curator of the NZ plant collection. He has been fortunate to obtain seed collection permits for a number of rare species and journeyed to the Sub Antarctic islands on a seed collecting trip in 2020.

This special outside talk is free to any current CHS Member and available to **the first 25 Members that register**. Telephone 366 6937 or email office@chsgardens.co.nz.

Members attending will also qualify for 25% off a coffee and a cabinet item at Ilex Café on the day.



Scorpio Books

Soil: The incredible story of what keeps the earth, and us, healthy

By **Matthew Evans** | 9781922351418 | \$36.99

What we do to the soil, we do to ourselves.

Soil is a joyful, magical book by farmer, cook and environmental warrior Matthew Evans. It tells the unlikely story of our most maligned resource as swashbuckling hero.

Evans writes a passionate plea for us to consider the very earth we stand on.

This engaging and intelligent book encompasses the science and history behind the current health of the planet, and investigates the future of our food. It's a story of how dirt makes us and can break

us, and how we are all responsible for our share in protecting this precious resource. Soil is a life-changing read - part warning, part lament and part manual full of hope and optimism. It provides a global perspective on the earth's life-giving thin veneer - from the Arctic to New Zealand - explaining how we've stripped 92 percent of the nutrient that enables ecosystems to function naturally.

New Zealand features, sadly, in Chapter 3: 'The Earth's Kidneys: when good soil turns bad'. Like all countries around the world, New Zealand has poisoned its soil. In our case it's with cadmium in phosphate fertilisers on dairy farms. Now two thirds of all our rivers are un-swimmable and three quarters of native fresh water fish species are under threat of extinction due to the run-off from dairy farms.

Highly recommended for gardener, farmer, conservationist, grocery shopper and food enthusiast, it is an essential addition to your bookshelf, school, local library and university. This book has been compared to the best works of Simon Winchester for its diverting side tangents that can bring the reader up short in amazement. It's teeming with revelations and facts you'll want to share, such as 'there are more living things in a teaspoon of healthy soil than there are humans on Earth'.

A thoroughly enjoyable, informative and thought-provoking read.

'A love letter to Mother Earth and entertaining must-read that goes to the heart of our survival' - Charles Massy, author of *Call of the Reed Warbler*.

Many thanks to Charlotte Nicholl of Scorpio Books for this review.