



Canterbury Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

The Kiosk

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Newsletter No 305 DECEMBER 2023

366 6937

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[canterburyhorticulturalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/canterburyhorticulturalsociety)

[groups/CHSHortTalk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk)

## From the President

Hi CHS Members,

It's with great delight that I wish you A" Very Good Festive Season". A massive thank you from the CHS Board and me for a very interesting year and we are working on a more interactive events for the incoming year.

One Question: - How's that Bucket list looking? Is there something on there that we can put a course on and allow you to fulfil your interests? We are here to help.

Garden Life is ending on an interesting speaker of Wolfgang Bopp from the Botanical Gardens. He is very interesting man on most subjects including his adventures.

A huge thanks to the volunteers, staff and especially you as a valued member of CHS.

Happy Festive Season Everyone.

**Allan Paterson**, CHS President

CHS Office closes on Thursday December 21 and reopens on January 8, 2024.



## No-dig Vegetable Gardening with Yotam Kay

Productive Organic No-dig Vegetable Gardening Talk

**Sunday 28 January 2024 1:30 - 3pm**

The Kiosk at Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Join Yotam for an engaging talk rooted in his journey cultivating over 10,000 kg of fresh produce on his 1/4 acre organic plot at Pākaraka Permaculture's market garden.

**\$45 CHS Members receive a \$10 discount (check your December email for the code).**

[Book online](#)

## CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP Terrariums

Includes all the materials you need and your very own terrarium to take home



## Terrariums

Create a Miniature Festive Forest

**Tuesday 5 December 7-9pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Join our Christmas Terrarium Workshop for handmade festive decor and craft your personalised mini arid or temperate garden. Includes all materials, festive sweet treats and non-alcoholic bubbles.

**\$65 (\$75 Non-Members)** [Book online](#)



## Summer Fruit Tree Pruning

Learn how to Summer prune fruit trees for improved health and fruiting

**Saturday 27 January 9am - 12pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Not all fruit tree pruning needs to happen in Winter! Summer pruning can help with shaping and to control vigour. Want to reduce the size of a fruit tree, Summer can be the time to do it!

**\$65 (\$75 Non-Members)** [Book online](#)

## GARDEN LIFE DECEMBER

**Main Speaker: Wolfgang Bopp**  
*The Gardens of Japan*

**Wednesday 6 December 1pm & 7pm**



The stunning gardens of Japan have drawn Wolfgang Bopp, Director of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, to visit six times. From arid gardens to moss-covered sanctuaries, serene ponds, thoughtfully arranged stones (ishigumi), blooming cherry trees, and vibrant autumn hues, Wolfgang will unveil the beauty of Tokyo and Kyoto's most remarkable gardens and temples.

**Mini Speaker: Alan Jolliffe**  
**New Zealand Mistletoe**

In New Zealand we have nine native mistletoes; although one species has not been seen since about 1954. We all hear about mistletoe at Christmas as it is tied up in a number of traditional Christmas songs. In the UK a piece of green, leafy mistletoe is hung decoratively (without flowers due to it being Wintertime). Here in NZ many of our mistletoes flower at Christmastime; from the very bright to the minute.

In Alan's presentation, you'll encounter visuals of all our native mistletoes, including an extinct variety. Many of these images are captured in Canterbury, offering a rewarding glimpse into their world for those who time their visit just right.

**The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens**  
**\$5 (Non-Members: \$10) Pay on the door**  
Tea, coffee and biscuits included



**The Kiosk**  
Canterbury Horticultural Society



Christchurch  
Envirokids

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER**

WHEN?: Anytime from 10AM - 1PM  
WHERE?: Kiosk in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

**FREE**

**bee awesome**  
He Pi Māhara

**2**  
Bee Awesome with Envirokids  
Learn fun facts in our information hunt, dress up like a beekeeper, play pollen games, and MORE!

**9**  
Seeds & Leaves Workshop with RCG  
Make seed bombs to take home with you, as well as search for leaves to imprint into a clay pendant!

**16**  
E-waste Hands-On Learning with EcoTech  
This is a hands-on experience where we will discuss the importance of dealing with e-waste in a responsible way.

**23**  
Sustainable Gift Wrapping Workshop  
Bring your Christmas presents to be wrapped for free in sustainable wrapping, all upcycled!

**30**  
Online Session: At-Home Upcycled Christmas Crackers  
Check out our social media pages for instructions on how to make a christmas cracker using upcycled materials!

**CLOSED**

For more information:  
@ChChEnvirokids

Christchurch Envirohub are our partners in the Kiosk. Reach out to the team anytime to know more.

Ben Alder - Trust Manager  
benalder@chchenvirohub.org

Kate Gislason - Envirokids Facilitator  
envirokids@chchenvirohub.org

Stay connected with Envirohub with the following links:

[Eco Events Calendar](#), [Map and Directory](#) and [Facebook page](#) are valuable resources to keep you connected with environmental happiness in Ōtautahi.

Envirokids meet at the Kiosk every Saturday from 10am - 1pm for FREE activities. December's programme has a sustainable gift wrapping workshop which looks like a great one to get into the festive season!

Check out their programme:  
[@CHChEnvirokids](#)

## MONOTONE CLOTHING SWAP



A COLLABORATIVE CLOTHING SWAP WITH MONOTONE STORE + CHRISTCHURCH ENVIROHUB



Christchurch Envirohub

SAT 2ND DEC  
3-4 PM  
THE KIOSK  
BOTANIC GARDENS  
\$5 ENTRY

## Canterbury Museum Friends

The Friends are taking a break until **Tuesday 20 February 10am**  
Speaker **Morgane Merrin**  
Science and Curatorial Communicator.  
Morgane will share her study of Stick Insects.

**There are no meetings in December & January for Watercolour Painting & Floral Design.**

## 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](#)

Last session for the year is Monday 11 December. Resumes Monday 13 February 2024.

## Fruit & Vegetable Group

**Wednesday 31 January 7pm**  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

## Chrysanthemum Group

**Saturday 9 December 5pm**  
The home of Bob and Faye Fyfe  
Xmas function Pot Luck Tea

Contact: **Robyn Purcell** tel: (03) 942 9871

## Garden Club Reps

**Christmas Function replaces meeting Wednesday 6 December**  
10.30am - 12.30pm

The garden of Marie & Neville Lancaster  
196 Paige Place, Rolleston

It is essential to RSVP to Gail Scrivener

Email: [gail.scrivener@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gail.scrivener@xtra.co.nz)

Mob: 027 489 2906

## Monthly Tips & Tasks with Michael Coulter

This month is the start of the Summer fruit season with berry fruits at their peak and stone fruit starting to ripen.

With longer days and the warmer temperatures these fruits will ripen quickly so they must be looked at each day and are best picked in the cooler mornings before they get too hot. This will help them to keep longer. My pip fruit have had a good fruit set and will need to be thinned to ensure that the fruit will be of a good size, also the preventative spray programme to control codling moth, mites and mildew at this time of the growing season is very important.

Tomatoes growing in the green house will now be ripening so the removal of the bottom leaves to help air flow needs to be carried

out. Regular watering of the tomatoes both in the green house and outside, along with liquid feeds will help prevent any blossom end rot on the fruit.

Watering of the gardens and lawns and conserving water use is what the Council is asking us to do. To keep our gardens in good condition we will need to manage our water use by using mulches to retain soil moisture and avoid water wastage by only directing watering to the base of plants. Not using maximum pressure, using soak hoses not sprinklers when windy and avoiding excessive over spray onto paths or drive ways. I still recommend that a good deep watering once a week to ten days is more efficient than a quick splash around each day. Watering pots also needs to be managed to avoid water wastage. Give the pots only enough water to keep the pot moist; watering until it comes out the bottom wastes water.

I grow a lot of plants in pots and dependant on the weather my pots may need to be watered only every other day or so. I find that about 5 to 10 seconds of water per pot is enough. We know that more plants die from over watering than anything else.

Plants grow very fast during the Summer months, many of the taller perennials will need to be staked before they get too tall to keep them in bounds and straight stems.

Chrysanthemums, Dahlias and some annuals all benefit from pinching out their growing tip; this helps to make them branch and stops them getting too tall when they flower later on.

Enjoy the Season, **Michael**

The CHS are working with the Southern Seed Exchange (SSE) to bring you a range of fabulous seed packs, for big and small gardens alike. Take a look [here](#).



Legacy Project keeps growing

The CHS legacy project Orchards in Schools has enjoyed another successful year. Three new orchards were planted at Heathcote Valley School, Te Waka Unua at the Climate Action Campus and Clarkville School by an enthusiastic crew of tamariki. If you know of a school within Christchurch who would like to join the project in 2024 get them to contact us at: [orchards@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:orchards@chsgardens.co.nz)



At the last Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens meeting, the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture awarded prestigious honors: Sue Molloy, Botanical Resources Coordinator, was named Fellow; Dr. John Clemens, former Gardens Curator, and Mr. Chris Barnaby, Assistant Commissioner of NZ Plant Varieties Office, both honoured as Associates of Honour. This accolade, limited to 60 individuals, represents the highest horticultural recognition.



Awards were presented by RNZIH Executive Murray Dawson (standing in for President Allan Jolliffe).



Green Thumbs Podcast

Monday 11 December 9am

**Plains FM 96.9** Along with seasonal gardening advice Ray and Lorraine chat to interesting folk from the gardening world. December's guest is florist Charlotte Church. In January, Dr Tabatha Forbes about the pleasures of botanical drawing in your garden. If you miss a session you can find the recordings on the [CHS website](#).

Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards 2024

We're so thrilled to partner with Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood and Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Boards for the 11th Annual Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards. Entries close **Friday 12 January** so enter soon if you live in these areas, or encourage your neighbours! [Enter Online](#)



Free Mona Vale Guided Walks

Meet at the Rose Garden adjacent to the car park by the Eros statue for a 90 minute walk. **Saturday 16 & 30 December 1.30pm.**

Free Guided Walks of the Botanic Gardens

Join a knowledgeable guide every day at **1:30pm** from October through April for a leisurely 45-60 minute stroll (unless otherwise specified). Meet at the CHS Kiosk.

December

- Fri 1 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives
- Sat 2 Herbaceous Border
- Sun 3 Curator's House Potager Garden
- Mon 4 Plant Hunters
- Tue 5 General Interest Walk (90 mins)
- Wed 6 Commemorative Trees

- Thu 7 General Interest Walk (90 mins)
- Fri 8 Gondwana Collection
- Sat 9 Biggest, smallest, quirkiest, tallest.....
- Sun 10 General Interest Walk (90 mins)
- Mon 11 Conservatories
- Tue 12 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives
- Wed 13 Curator's House Potager Garden
- Thu 14 General Interest Walk (90 mins)
- Fri 15 Curious Conifers
- Sat 16 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives
- Sun 17 General Interest Walk (90 mins)
- Mon 18 Notable Trees
- Tue 19 NZ Native Gardens – ICON Garden
- Wed 20 Notable Trees
- Thu 21 NZ Gardens - NZ Natives
- Friday 22 Herbaceous Border
- Sat 23 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives

View the full schedule of walks online at: [www.friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz](http://www.friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz)

WORKING BEE



CHS Ornamental Garden

The last working bee for the year is on the **Saturday 2 December 10am – 12pm**. It's mulching day; we're putting the garden to bed until the end of March 2024 when planting will begin. Email [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz) if you can help or just show up on the day!  
9 Evelyn Cousins Avenue, Richmond



## Meet our Bot Tot Wrangler

### Leonie Jackson

Leonie has been a dedicated CHS Member and volunteer for a significant period, dating back to her early involvement with her parents, Rae and Harold Mintrom, at the monthly plant sales table. Despite being a busy mother of three boys and a Primary School teacher, Leonie actively contributed to the legendary annual CHS Garage Sales and even served as the Secretary of the Board.

As retirement approached, Leonie found a new weekly opportunity to share her passion for horticulture and inspire children by assisting with the Bot Tots preschool session. Reflecting on the importance of connecting the younger generation with the natural world, she emphasised the value of the CHS engaging with the public in the gardens. The drop-in sessions create a relaxed atmosphere for conversations about gardening while engaging



young minds, bringing vibrancy to the Kiosk.

Outside of her volunteer commitments, Leonie enjoys spending time with her grandson, exploring the country in her campervan, and indulging in her love for singing. Additionally, she volunteers at the Silver Stream Reserve in Clarkville, focusing on regenerating native bush to provide habitat for the rare Boulder Copper butterfly.

The CHS welcomes anyone interested in contributing to Bot Tots, whether it's an hour here or there, or once a month. For more information, please contact Rachel at [rachel@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:rachel@chsgardens.co.nz). Join us in fostering a connection with nature and inspiring the next generation!



## Have a Problem?

We love to hear from our gardeners, especially any niggling problems, be they edible or ornamental! Bring questions to Garden Life, post them on or email Michael Coulter [coulterchrys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:coulterchrys@xtra.co.nz)

## Summer Garden Competition 2024

**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 January 2024**

The Christchurch Beautifying Association are again organising their annual Summer Garden Competition. If you are interested in entering please request an entry form from [shearsam@outlook.com](mailto:shearsam@outlook.com).

Final date for entries is **Tuesday 23 January**

## Volunteers Afternoon Tea & Guided Walk

**Thursday 14 December 1pm - 3pm**

The Kiosk

CHS Volunteers are invited to come along to The Kiosk and share afternoon tea with the Board and staff.

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens will take anyone interested on a walk to the Herbaceous Border prior to the afternoon tea at 2pm.

Look out for the invitation from Sonja in the coming week.

## Scorpio Books

### Secret Gardens of Aotearoa

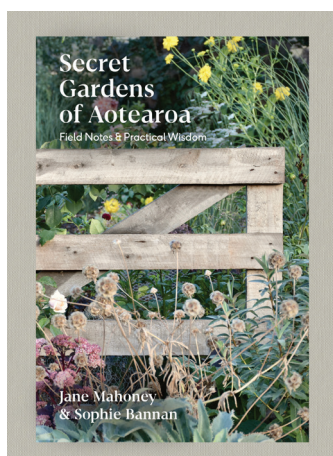
Field notes and practical wisdom by Jane Mahoney & Sophie Bannan

ISBN: 9781991006240 | \$49.99

*Secret Gardens of Aotearoa* is a beautiful book that showcases twelve intriguing and unique gardens and the people who tend to them, along with advice, guides, and plenty of stunning photography.

Written and photographed by Banks Peninsula local Jane Mahoney and her daughter Sophie Bannan, this book focuses on smaller, 'home garden' scale gardens, all selected for their passionate, creative gardeners who understand the value of knowledge sharing.

Within the pages of this beautiful book, we visit an enchanting and productive 'pocket farm' in suburban Auckland; a stunning flower garden amongst the sheep and beef farms in rural Canterbury; small, terraced



home gardens next door to native bush in Wellington; and a food forest in the yard of an unlikely Coromandel subdivision. The profiles of each gardener are a particular highlight of this book, representing a huge range of experiences, backgrounds, and hard-won learning that New Zealanders

bring to their diverse garden spaces. The advice they bring, too, is wonderfully varied: from recycling old concrete paths into retaining walls to propagating succulents; from recipes for garden teas to tips for effective pest control; and everything in between.

*Secret Gardens of Aotearoa* is a special book, and one that will encourage you to look

at your own garden, whatever its size and purpose, with fresh eyes. It will also inspire you to peer through gates and over fences of ordinary-looking urban homes, curious about the possibilities even small, unassuming spaces can contain. Many thanks to Scorpio Books for this review.

**CHS Members enjoy a 10% discount at Scorpio Books & Telling Tales**

[www.scorpiobooks.co.nz](http://www.scorpiobooks.co.nz)



## BOOKS MAKE THE BEST GIFTS

Scorpio Books' Summer reading guide is jam-packed with hand-picked recommendations for readers of all kinds.

Grab a copy in store, from the CHS Kiosk, or browse online at [scorpiobooks.co.nz](http://scorpiobooks.co.nz)

