



Balcony Dwellers!

Embark on a journey of sustainable cultivation from the comfort of your balcony, veranda, or courtyard!

big ideas for small spaces

Whether you're a novice or a seasoned gardener, get ready to transform your compact living area into a thriving haven of sustainable growth.

With a focus on environmentally conscious practices, Balcony Dwellers can help you cultivate your own greens, herbs and fruit, making the most of every centimetre of your outdoor sanctuary.

Kicking off in Autumn at the Ōtakaro Orchard with **Autumn Edibles** we will be planting

a variety of beans, both low-growing and climbing varieties, with the added benefit of underplanting with lettuce, pak choy and spinach. We'll incorporate small, continuously yielding leafy crops that thrive during Autumn and Winter along with aromatic herbs for a diverse and rewarding harvest.

More details on this affordable Saturday programme will be available soon so watch this space!

Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

Summer in Christchurch tends to be unpredictable, and this year is no exception. We've experienced a mix of hot days and occasional moisture, resulting in a favourable growing season. My stone fruit crops have been abundant, and after their harvest, I've applied a fungicidal spray and conducted a light prune to manage unwanted growth.

The apple crop looks promising, fortunately unaffected by pests or diseases, requiring only preventive sprays. Tomatoes, grown in three different cultivars, are yielding well without any notable whitefly issues. Saxon tomatoes have displayed good size and flavour, while Rubee Prize and Rubee Plus have surprised me with exceptionally large fruits, ranging from 300 to 578 grams! I'm contemplating whether to grow both varieties next year.

As warmer weather persists, diligent watering becomes crucial, considering the higher evaporation rate due to wind



and limited rainfall. Lawn maintenance, including feeding, should be timed with irrigation or before a substantial rain shower. Adequate watering and fertilisation are essential for citrus plants to support fruit development and prevent small, dry fruit at harvest. To encourage new growth for later flowering, I've been Summer pruning the roses as they finish blooming. Additionally, I've been removing spent flowers from Summer bedding plants like Dahlias and Begonias, ensuring they continue to bloom.

In the vegetable garden, the focus remains on harvesting, sowing, and continuous planting for ongoing yields, while also planning for the upcoming Winter.

Wishing you a joyful and fruitful gardening season in 2024! **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](#).

GARDEN LIFE FEBRUARY

Gail Scrivener

Waiheke Wonderlands

Wednesday 7 February 1pm & 7pm



Known for her active role with the Garden Clubs, Gail is a long standing CHS member and currently on the Board. With a background in Tourism she has been organising and leading specially tailored Garden themed tours nationally and internationally for many years.

Enjoy the visual wonder of Gail's most recent 5 day tour to the North Island last November. Encompassing a range of gardens from Liz Morrow's outstanding Six star Garden of National Significance 'Omaio', to the well known Hamilton Gardens. Gain a peak into Waiheke Island's Sacred Blessings Sanctuary with its stunning sculptures. Discover the seasonal garden of Ayrilies where the owner has been challenged to have a plant at its best every week of the year, keeping horticultural and botanical interest in balance with the landscape.

"If you think of gardening as an art form, Ayrilies is the best expression of that art."
Jack Hobbs, manager of Auckland Botanic Gardens.

Be inspired for your next trip North...

Mini Speaker - Christine Knight
Waiheke Inspired Floral Demonstration

Christine is one of our lovely creative members who embraces all things horticultural. Her passion for travel and plants will inspire this floral demonstration drawing particularly on her experiences on Waiheke visiting vineyards and wandering the shoreline.

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





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

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](#)

Bot Tots Volunteers Sought!

Join us in fostering a connection with nature and inspiring the next generation! For more info contact Sonja at office@chsgardens.co.nz.

Bot Tots

Restarts Monday 12 February

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](#)

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 14 & 28 February 10am

All welcome, BYO materials
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Summer Garden Adventures

Has Christchurch turned into a tropical island? The unpredictable weather patterns, with super-hot days followed by torrential rain, make me wonder. The Yucca elephantipes in my garden have thrived in these conditions, turning into Triffids. These beasts started breaking apart a concrete block retaining wall. Their day had come, and while it seems a shame to remove them, the thought of the wall collapsing encouraged me. The largest Yucca was around 5 meters tall with a base width of around 700mm – a giant. How was I going to safely remove these giants? This was a big job; my dog was willing to help with some digging but probably not very helpful. I had been told that Yuccas and chainsaws didn't go well together. The height was also a concern with the house only meters away. At a family dinner, the subject of removing the Yuccas was discussed. To my surprise,

BOOTECK X MONOTONE X ENVIROHUB CLOTHING SWAP

A COLLABORATIVE CLOTHING SWAP FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE CHRISTCHURCH



**SAT 10TH FEBRUARY
2:30-3:30 PM @ BOOTECK
FILL A BAG!**

**BRING 5 (OR MORE) ARTICLES OF CLOTHING
\$5 ENTRY FOR SWAPPERS -
(DROP OFF FROM 10AM-2PM)
\$10 ENTRY FOR WALK-IN'S**



GREEN DRINKS: SEACLEANERS

**FEBRUARY 15TH 6PM-8PM
CASCADE BAR & COURTYARD**

Since their inception, the Canterbury SeaCleaners team has already made an incredible impact, successfully removing 200,000 litres of debris. Come learn about their story, and help to support their future ventures.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT!

**GUEST SPEAKER:
HENRY WILLIAMSON**

Garden Club Reps

Wednesday 7 February 10.30am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Chrysanthemum Group

Saturday 3 February 1.30pm

Charlotte's Home, Ethne Street
General cultural notes, pest and disease control. Plant nutrition. New Members welcome.

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

Edmonds Factory Garden Party

Organised by Friends of Edmonds Factory Garden

Sunday 18 February 12 - 3pm
359 Ferry Road [Page](#)

Live Music & Entertainment

Mixed Feelings; Garden News; Dixie Jazz; Stedfast Brass

Ongoing Activities 12-3pm

Refreshments (\$1), scones (\$2) and sausage sizzle (\$2) - Cash only

- Bouncy Castle and games
- Gardening Info Desk with CHS Stalls
- Art with WEA artists
- Edmonds Factory Garden Quiz

Working Bee at CHS Ornamental Garden

Saturday 10 February 10am - 12pm
(Rain Day Saturday 17 February)

9 Evelyn Cousins Avenue, Richmond

Email office@chsgardens.co.nz if you can help or just show up on the day! Bring gumboots, gardening gloves, sun-hat. We are mulching. [Facebook event link](#)

Floral Design

Wednesday 21 February 2pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Currently the group is studying the upright styles of Ikebana under the tutoring of Ray King.

Interested? Contact: Ray King

Tel: 021 037 0675

[See the latest arrangements online](#)

my sons were excited about the prospect of taking down these Triffids; they saw it as a challenge. After dinner, out came the chainsaw and a long rope. Petrol permeated our nostrils; the family gathered, ready for action. My tropical garden was going to take a big hit.

The limbs were quickly removed by the chainsaw, a length of limb was placed on the lawn ready to break the fall of the main trunk. Lasso rope in place, we were ready to go. In went the chainsaw, cutting a wedge out



of the Yucca easily. Now for the main cut; pressure on the rope at the right time directed the Triffid Beast to behave and fall exactly where we wanted it to go. Goodbye Yuccas, it was nice knowing you when you were smaller. Now there is a huge gap in the garden.

Although I loved the tropical look of the Yuccas, I won't be planting them again in a confined space. Think twice if you are planting Yuccas; they need a large amount of space for their roots and side shoots. Now I am considering their replacement. Smaller Cordyline australis varieties and hybrids are catching my eye.

There are some beautiful forms of Cordyline available in the nurseries; I will be choosing carefully this time. My top picks are Cordyline varieties/hybrids - Salsa, Broadsword, Green Goddess, and Albertii "Cha Cha"; so many to choose from.

Canterbury Museum Friends

The Friends of Canterbury Museum support the work of the Museum by raising funds and hosting regular coffee mornings to hear curators, scientists, historians and others talk about the Museum collection and other topics of interest. The Friends meet at 10am on the third Tuesday on the month at The Kiosk. To find out more about our programme of talks see the [What's On](#) section or email friends@canterburymuseum.com to find out more.

Join the Friends for coffee at 10am, and a guest speaker from 10.15am. The Kiosk

Tuesday 20 February 10am

Speaker **Morgane Merrin**

Science and Curatorial Communicator.

Morgane will uncover the secrets of stick insects. We will learn about our New Zealand stick insects and their habits. We will also compare them to our overseas cousins and explore their differences and similarities. Live stick insects will also be available for your viewing pleasure. **Free, bring coins for raffles.**

Canterbury Rose Society

Thursday 15 February 7.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Guest demonstrator Mary Gerard from Rangiora. Mary will demonstrate floral art design incorporating roses and garden flowers. Everyone is welcome.



This time I will plant the Cordyline well away from the retaining wall. After seeing the lovely hot colour scheme in the herbaceous border at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens this summer, I am inspired to recreate this look. Plants that will survive in a very sunny garden, reds, purples, and lime green will spice up this garden. Exciting times ahead with visions of a new, colourful section in my garden.

Sonja Tschepp, CHS Manager



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.

Thu 1 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives

Fri 2 Curator's House Potager Garden

Sat 3 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Sun 4 Notable Trees

Mon 5 Conservatories

Tue 6 Plant Hunters - plants & their stories

Wed 7 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives

Thu 8 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Fri 9 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives

Sat 10 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Sun 11 Curious Conifers – Pinetum walk

Mon 12 Herbaceous Border

Tue 13 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Wed 14 Gondwana Collection

Thu 15 Archery Lawn/Herbaceous Border

Fri 16 Curious Conifers – Pinetum walk

Sat 17 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives

Sun 18 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Mon 19 Notable Trees

Tue 20 Leonard Cockayne Garden

Wed 21 The Prince of plants – noble palm

Thu 22 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives

Fri 23 Biggest, smallest quirkiest.....

Sat 24 Plant Hunters – plants & their stories

Sun 25 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Mon 26 Gondwana Collection

Tue 27 General Interest Walk (90 mins)

Wed 28 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives

Thu 29 History Walk – the Armstrong Lawn

View the full schedule of walks online

www.friendschbotanicgardens.org.nz

Mona Vale - Saturday Guided Walks

Meet at the Rose Garden by the Eros statue for a 90 min walk. **10 & 24 February 1.30pm**

Ohinetahi Trip - Sunday 18 February 10am

Guest Speaker - Sunday 17 March 4pm

Chris Beardsley, manager of the Plant Variety Rights Office, will be speaking on the subject of Plant Variety Protection and intellectual property for plants.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Fruit & Vegetable Group

Wednesday 28 February 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

It's that time of year when everything is in abundance. What to do with the glut?

Come share ideas on how to preserve your excess and enjoy it through the year. From quick cook jam to the age old system of storing root vegetables in a clamp.



Admission is free to CHS members \$5 Non-Members. Includes a cuppa and biscuit.

Richmond Gala 2024

Saturday 23 March 10am-2pm

Richmond Gala is a collaborative community event hosted by Richmond Community Garden, Avebury House and We Are Richmond. From Vogel St to Eveleyn Couzins Ave, the entire riverside corner will be humming!

Live entertainment, fabulous food vendors, and of course Avebury's famous Devonshire Tea in the House!

For more information on participating (Car Boot Sale / Preserves Competition / Buskers / Craft Stalls visit the [facebook event](#).

Please note many sellers will only be able to accept cash, though bank transfers are also commonly used now.

The closest ATM is at New World Stanmore. See you there!

FEBRUARY EVENTS

GARDEN WORKING BEE
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY,
SATURDAY
10 AM – 1 PM

FORAGING WALK
FORAGING CORNER
SATURDAY 10TH
10.30 AM – 12.30 PM
RIVERLUTION

THURSDAY EVENING
GARDENING SESSIONS
THURSDAY
6 PM – 8 PM

LUNAR NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION
SATURDAY 17TH
2 PM – 4 PM

REPAIR RIVERLUTION
TUESDAY, 20TH
5.30 PM – 7.30 PM
PARA KORE
TE PŪNAHA WHAKARŌPŪ PARA
WASTE HIERARCHY
6 PM
RIVERLUTION ECO HUB

GARDEN LIFE

Monthly gardening programme
for the everyday gardener

We want your Problems!

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

March

Wednesday 6 March 1pm & 7pm
Our speakers are still to be confirmed for our March Garden Life sessions. Keep an eye on the Facebook Event Page: www.facebook.com/events/303238718911110/303238772244438

The Kiosk

Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Armagh Street car park footbridge
\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)
Tea, coffee & biscuits included

See our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) for updates.

CHS Members, please feel free to bring a friend along to Garden Life. We can take their payment with our EFTPOS at the door, or if they would like to become a Member they can sign up at the Kiosk Monday - Wednesday 10am - 4pm.

Sale Merchandise

These lovely items were designed to commemorate the 160th anniversary of CHS. With only a few left, we've made them available online at a special price. Don't miss out on the opportunity to own a piece of history – our tea towels are now \$18 (originally \$30), and tote bags are now \$8.50 (previously \$15). Act fast to snag these fantastic deals!

www.chsgardens.co.nz/shop



Farewell Rachel

Our passionate Programme Coordinator, Rachel Oliver (pictured above left with Maggie and Bot Tots helper Leone), is embarking on a new journey as she pursues further studies in Landscape Design. While Rachel transitions, she will maintain her dedication to Orchards in Schools, continuing to share her enthusiasm and expertise with this expanding schools programme. Additionally, she will be working in the garden and collaborating with volunteers at Richmond Community Garden. We extend our heartfelt wishes to her for success and fulfilment in all her new endeavours.

It has been an eventful or should that be 'event filled' three and a half years as the CHS' Programme Coordinator! As this new year begins it is a perfect time for me to move on and continue my own horticultural learning journey. Whilst developing my Landscape Design skills with full time study, I will also be collaborating with one of our partner organisations, Richmond Community Gardens, as their Garden Coordinator working alongside their volunteers.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve all the CHS members and the wider community. I will miss being based in the beautiful surroundings of the Botanic Gardens and working amongst such inspiring people all joined by the common love of plants. Hopefully our paths will cross in the future and if not, just remember that gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.



Scorpio Books

Paul Bangay: A Life in Garden Design

by Paul Bangay

ISBN: 9781760763282 |
\$90.00

Garden designer Paul Bangay likely needs no introduction – widely respected, he is one of Australia's most sought-after designers, and has worked across the country as well as overseas for over forty years. His latest book, *A Life in Garden Design*, is a unique and impressive tome, combining memoir writing and personal archive images with plenty of large format, full colour garden photography and drawings.

Within these pages, you'll read candid reflections on Bangay's childhood and studies, early forays into design work, international travel, and relationships with mentors and friends who have shaped

PAUL BANGAY



his career. He also writes with detail and passion about the process of designing his own garden spaces in the homes he has lived and worked in – from small, rented, central-Melbourne apartments to the sprawling rural beauty of Stonefields.

A Life in Garden Design is much, much more than a memoir – it is also a lush celebration of gardens in many forms. Photos by long-time collaborator Simon Griffiths feature heavily, along with news and magazine clippings, detailed garden plans drawn by Bangay himself, and many photos of travel, garden inspirations, friends and family from his own collections. Read it once for the story of a fascinating and varied career in garden design, and then revisit it often for fresh perspectives for your own life and garden.

Many thanks to Scorpio Books for this review.

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

www.scorpiobooks.co.nz