



BALCONY DWELLERS

Next Session Saturday 20 April

Embark on a journey of sustainable cultivation from the comfort of your balcony!

With a focus on environmentally conscious practices, discover the joy of cultivating your own greens, herbs and fruit, making the most of every centimetre of your outdoor sanctuary.

Monthly, third Saturday of the Month at Ōtakaro Orchard 10am – 12pm \$20 (\$25 Non-Members)
[Book Now](#)

GARDEN LIFE APRIL

Josie Martin

The Artist and the Giant

Wednesday 3 April 1pm & 7pm



Josie is a qualified Horticulturist and Fellow of The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, a painter, sculptor and ceramicist. Josie's unique home, The Giant's House, is a grand historic residence built in 1881 and situated in the historic French township of Akaroa.

Mini Speaker - David Barwick
Curator, Botanic Gardens

David is the curator for the Herbaceous Border at the Gardens and passionate about colour! He will be talking about colour theory in the garden and how to create harmony with your plantings.

Due to the unavailability of our wonderful speakers in the evening, we've prepared a special programme kicking off with a screening of "The Giant's House Akaroa", courtesy of Josie Martin. Following that, a special demonstration on planting Spring bulbs in bowls will run. After the demo, we'll host a bulb swap, so don't forget to bring a bag of bulbs from your garden (please ensure you know the type of bulb they are).

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



Chrysanthemum Competition

Experience the splendour of these magnificent blooms up close at The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens

Engage with the growers and gain inspiration to cultivate your own Chrysanthemums at home!

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 April 10am - 4pm
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Chrysanthemum COMPETITION

Local Growers - Wonderful Blooms



free entry

Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

Autumn is a bustling season in the garden, marked this year by noticeable daytime temperature drops in March. Despite morning dews, rainfall remains scarce, leaving soil moisture notably low. This month is prime for lawn renovation in preparation for winter. Feeding, weed spraying, top dressing, and resowing yield optimal results while the soil remains warm and grass growth continues.

Areas with moss growth should be treated with sulphate of iron and aerated to enhance drainage. In the flower garden, the transition from Summer blooms to Autumn flowers begins. To prolong flowering, regularly deadhead plants like Dahlias, Begonias, and other annuals. With Chrysanthemums coming into bloom, ensure proper support



and pest/disease management.

Gladiolas can be lifted now and dried for storage, with labelling for corm identification. This season is ideal for taking cuttings of Geraniums (Pelargoniums) and Fuchsias for overwintering.

Winter vegetable crops should be thriving and require only minimal weeding. Unused areas can be sown with green crops to enrich soil for upcoming seasons. Spring bulbs should be planted now, either directly in the garden or in pots, using only firm, healthy bulbs or corms planted at the correct depth.

Autumn also presents a favourable time for planting trees and shrubs, allowing for establishment before Winter. Take advantage of seasonal sales from retailers to make beneficial purchases. Keep an eye out for that plant you've always wanted. [Check the CHS Member discount page!](#)

Happy gardening! Michael Coulter

Terraviva Bulb Masterclass

Saturday 20 April 2pm

Terraviva, 242 Roydvale Avenue, Burnside

The CHS and Terraviva have partnered up this month to bring you an elevated bulb **Masterclass**. You'll learn all you need to know about about bulbs and the different ways you can plant them. There will be discounts on associated products and lots of goodies and inspiration to take home.

No need to book just bring your current CHS Membership card and show up!



Home & Garden



From the President

The lease for The Kiosk has been extended for another 8 years, confirmed after extensive deliberations among the CHS Board, Garden Clubs, associated groups, and our valued partners, Friends of the Gardens and Envirohub. A heartfelt thank you from myself and the Board. Collaboration with the CCC proved to be an interesting and constructive process.

Exciting new courses are on the horizon, including botanical art, ceramics, flax weaving, and more. Keep an eye out for updates if you're interested. We're also teaming up with partners for bulb planting, pruning, grafting, and other topics. In cases where it's more practical, our partners such as Portstone, Terraviva, Woodend Nursery, and Trees for Canterbury may be hosting these events, offering potentially more cost-effective options for attendance. Don't be surprised if we refer you to them when inquiring about such workshops.

In addition to these developments, The Kiosk has some great shows lined up. I look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events or at the AGM.

Allan Paterson, CHS President

Fruit & Vegetable Group

Wednesday 24 April 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

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

Garden Club Reps

Wednesday 3 April 10.30am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Chrysanthemum Group

Saturday 20 April 1.30pm

Michael and Susan's home

Preparing for Autumn Show, set up and breakdown etc. Tips on staging of flowers. New Members welcome.

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

Chrysanthemum Show

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 April 10am - 4pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Floral Design

Wednesday 17 April 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](#)

Plant of the Month

Blueberries

Although it's the end of the season for Blueberries, some varieties such as Pink Icing and Tifblue put on a lovely display of autumnal colours, providing interesting landscapes in the form of hedges or in containers.



Blueberries prefer to be grown in acid soils, rich in organic matter and free draining. They thrive best if grown in full sunlight. A consistent supply of water is better, but not water logged. If growing them in pots, check them often to make sure the soil hasn't dried out. To retain moisture, apply some mulch around the plant.

Prune back dead, damaged, and diseased

wood, removing weak and twiggy growth to open up the plant. Cutting back 4-5 year old branches to the ground will also encourage vigorous growth. Prune in late summer and remember blueberries fruit on last season's wood.

Here in Canterbury, it is better to buy Northern Highbush or Rabbiteye varieties as they have a high winter chilling requirement. These are mid to late season varieties that will flower later and will therefore hopefully miss any chance of our late frosts in Spring, resulting in poor fruit production. Some blueberries are self-fertile, others will need a companion to help with cross pollination, producing a heavier crop of fruit.

Blueberries are a summertime favourite, and we know that they are considered to be extremely healthy, containing vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. So why not buy a bush or two to enjoy this family favourite.

Many thanks to Portstone Garden Centre for this update.

CHS Members enjoy a 15% discount at Portstone Garden Centre

www.portstone.co.nz





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.
Mon 1 Biggest, smallest, quirkiest, tallest..
Tue 2 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives
Wed 3 General Interest Walk (90 mins)
Thu 4 General Interest Walk (90 mins)
Fri 5 Curious Conifers – Pinetum
Sat 6 Notable Trees
Sun 7 Gondwana Collection

View the full schedule of walks online
www.friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz

Mona Vale - Saturday Guided Walks

Meet at the Rose Garden by the Eros statue for a 90 min walk. **13, 27 April 1.30pm**

Speaker Series - Sunday 21 April 4pm

Dr Rick Acland will be speaking on the subject of the botany and pharmacology of Cannabis sativa.

All welcome, \$5 (Non-Members \$10)
 afternoon tea provided, The Kiosk

Green Thumbs Podcast

Monday 8 April 9am

Amy and Ray chat to Charlotte Roberts about natural dyes using garden flowers. Listen on **Plains FM 96.9** the [CHS website](#).

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 10 & 24 April 10am

All welcome, BYO materials
 The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Hoake ki te Taiao City Nature Challenge

The CHS is supporting this initiative with a \$75 Trees for Canterbury voucher as a prize. Have a look online about how you can get involved. [Read more online](#)



26-29 April 2024

Help put Ōtautahi Christchurch's biodiversity on the map!

Take part and record as many species possible.



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.

Last month for guided walks!

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](#)

There are no Bot Tots sessions on Monday 1, 15 or 22 April due to Easter & school holidays

Bot Tots

Mondays 10 - 11.30am

(term time only)
 Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. Drop-in during school term time (\$2 koha per tamariki). [Facebook Page](#)



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.

Tuesday 16 April 10am

Frances Husband

Associate Curator Human History, Canterbury Museum

Jetpacks for the Museum Collection

Two of my first acquisitions as Associate Curator were jetpacks invented and made in Christchurch by Martin Aircraft Company.

This is the story about how they came to be considered for the permanent collection and a little about their development and history.
Free, bring coins for raffles.



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 10 April 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Nominations are being called for President, Vice President and (4-7) Board Members

The Agenda, President's Report, Annual Accounts and Auditor's Report will be available from the CHS Office 7 days prior to and at the meeting.

You can now find voting documents on our website. www.chsgardens.co.nz/aggm

Sow you want to be a Gardener?

Saturday 20 April from 10am - 11.30am or from 11.30am - 1pm at The Kiosk

The CHS is collaborating with Envirokids in a programme to show children how to collect and save pumpkin seeds. We're looking for donations of pumpkins and two gardeners to help the children extract the seeds for cleaning, storage and planting. Contact envirokids@chchenvirohuh.org if you can help.

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

May

Wednesday 1 May 1pm & 5.30pm

New Evening Time!

Kate Gislason - A Life Without Waste

A dedicated advocate for waste minimization, Kate Gislason currently serves as the owner/director of Without Waste, a pioneering company specialising in waste reduction solutions for events and businesses. With roots in Ohio, USA, Kate boasts six years of invaluable experience within the waste management sector.

Her expertise spans a diverse spectrum, encompassing up-cycling initiatives, community outreach and education, event waste management, and childhood environmental programmes.

Kate will share her wealth of knowledge, shedding light on fundamental recycling practices, unpacking recent standardisation rules in New Zealand's kerbside bins, and drawing insights from her extensive

tenure in the U.S. waste industry. Moreover, attendees can anticipate gaining invaluable zero-waste strategies and insights, distilled from Kate's hands-on experience and commitment to sustainability. This session promises to be an enlightening discourse, offering actionable insights and practical tips for individuals and organisations seeking to minimize their environmental footprint. Join us as we delve into the forefront of waste reduction efforts with Kate Gislason.

Mini Speaker: Dave Adams & Anne Gane Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards

Dave and Anne will share highlights from the participating gardens.

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.

New Timings for Garden Life

Our May session of Garden Life will be at the new evening time of **5.30pm**. These sessions will launch with self-serve hot drinks, cheese and crackers and a half hour of social time. Feel free to bring along a home-made pickle to share! In June & July Garden Life will take a break from evening sessions, returning in August with lots of new ideas for Spring! From August through to June all evening sessions will run at the new time of 5.30pm.

Working Bee at CHS Ornamental Garden

Saturday 13 April 10am - 12pm

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. Shared morning tea. Keep an eye on the [Facebook event link](#)

Scorpio Books

Book of the Month

Foraging New Zealand

by Peter Langlands

[Pre order online](#) | \$50

An essential guide to foraging in New Zealand.

New Zealand is full of incredible, edible wild foods — fruit, fungi and seaweed;

berries, herbs and more — you only need to know where to look and how to do it safely.

Foraging New Zealand is the ultimate guide to unearthing more than 250 of our tastiest wild plants.

Packed with stunning photography, up-to-date information and helpful tips, this book will have you venturing into the countryside, viewing urban weeds with fresh eyes, and returning to the larder with zest.



Peter Langlands has spent a lifetime compiling Aotearoa's largest database of wild foraged species, running workshops and sourcing wild produce for chefs as one of our only licensed professional foragers. He brings his years of expertise together in this essential compendium. Peter and his partner are based in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Launch Details: We are thrilled that Peter will be launching Foraging New Zealand in-store at Scorpio Books on **Wednesday 1st May, 5.30pm** for a 6pm start. All welcome, refreshments provided. This event is free to attend. RSVP by emailing rsvp@scorpiobooks.co.nz.

Many thanks to Scorpio Books for this review.

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

www.scorpiobooks.co.nz

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

