



Have you seen the amazing planters at the Kiosk!

BALCONY DWELLERS

Next Session Saturday 17 August

Sustainable Gardening for Small Spaces

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 Online Now](#)

GARDEN LIFE AUGUST Charlotte Roberts

Natural Dyes
Wednesday 7 August 1pm & 5.30pm

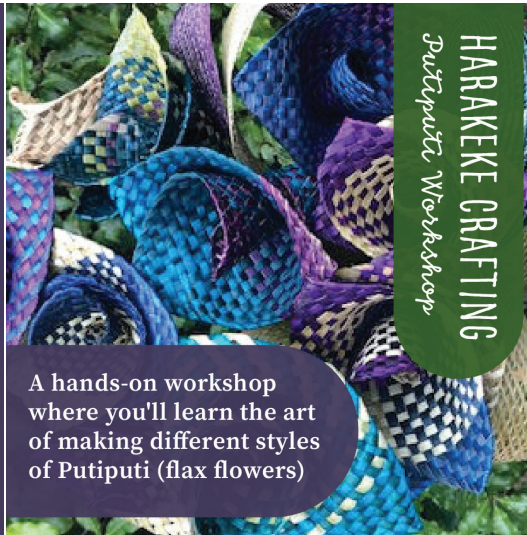


Putiputi (flax flowers) Workshop

Zero-waste nature-based craft

A hands-on workshop where you'll learn to make various styles of putiputi and leave with a bunch. By the end, you'll have the skills to craft your own stunning putiputi, bringing sustainable artistry into your life.

Thursday 22 August 10am – 12pm
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
\$35 (\$40 Non-Members)
[Book Online Now](#)



HARAKEKE CRAFTING
Putiputi Workshop

A hands-on workshop where you'll learn the art of making different styles of Putiputi (flax flowers)

Charlotte is a textile artist with a passion for natural dyes and fibres. She spent the Summer growing natural dye plants and linen flax at the BHU organic farm in Lincoln, which you may have heard about on the Green Thumbs podcast.

Working from her home studio in Birdlings Flat, she dyes local wool with natural dyes and hopes her work will reconnect people with where their clothes and textiles come from.

Mini Speaker: Bridget Allen Sensory Nature Play

Bridget will introduce us to The Green Lab's Sensory Nature Play project on Brooker Ave. This innovative concept is transforming the landscape and fostering new connections



between people and nature. Bridget's vision centres on creating a community-focused space where the rhythms of nature can be experienced through the senses.

Bridget brings her unique perspective and passion to this inspiring initiative.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
\$5 (Non-Members: \$10) Pay on the door

Tea, coffee and biscuits afternoon
Cheese, crackers and fruit punch evening

Events Coming up at The Kiosk and Beyond!

A sneak peak at our new programme of events and workshops

Grow your own Cut Flowers

Learn to sow a colourful array of flower seeds
Thursday 12 September 6.30 - 8.30pm
The Kiosk \$40 (\$45 Non-Member)

Grow your own Vegetables from Seed

Enjoy an abundant veggie garden in Spring!
Saturday 14 September 2 - 4pm
The Kiosk \$40 (\$45 Non-Member)

Botanical Inspired Vase Workshop

Create a gorgeous ceramic vase
Sun 15 & Tue 24 September 10am - 12pm
The Kiosk \$40 (\$45 Non-Member)

Botanical Watercolour Workshop

With renowned artist and teacher Kay Duncan
Sunday 13 October 1.30 - 4.30pm
The Kiosk \$110 (\$130 Non-Member)

Edible Flower Workshop

With Marion from Petal & Co
Sat 19 2.30pm & Tue 22 October 12.30pm
The Kiosk \$45 (\$50 Non-Member)

Margaret Watling Floral Demonstration

Kate Williams, The After Hours Stylist
Sunday 3 November 2pm

Margaret Watling, floral artist, visionary, and champion of the Canterbury Horticultural Society, believed everyone should enjoy and share the beauty of flowers. Her financial support has ensured her passion for flowers continues today. This event honours her legacy and contribution to floral art in Canterbury.

This year's Demonstration is by Kate Williams, author of *The After Hours Stylist* and local flower farmer. A love of nature and celebrating each season is at the heart of Kate's talent and passion for styling. Her popular floral workshops and garden tours are sell-out events.

We hope you will join us for this special event at her garden and home.

Meet our New Team Members

Welcome Jenny Cookson, CHS Manager

Kia ora koutou katoa,

I come from an education, health, business, and fundraising/event management background. Most recently, I have been working as General Manager at The Malthouse Theatre

Trust. I like people, plants, and all things gardening. I am a cat and dog person, even though my Labrador puppy treats the vegetable garden as his own smorgasbord.

My family lives on a sloping section on the Port Hills. We have spent many enjoyable weekends pruning, wheelbarrowing, and digging, focusing on food production with fruit trees, berries, vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers. We enlisted eight chickens for weeding and feeding and have multiple compost bins and worm farms.

I am thrilled to join the CHS team. Thank you to the CHS Board for the opportunity,



especially Gail Scrivener and Allan Paterson, who made the interview process relaxed and enjoyable. The outgoing manager, Sonja, could not have been friendlier or more welcoming.

I am excited to work in this beautiful environment, with an organisation that does so much good. In my first week, a Botanic Gardens staff member announced the budding of the Magnolia trees, and off we went to see the new blooms. It was wonderful!

CHS has an incredible history spanning more than 160 years. I am excited to honour past traditions and help plan for the future. As CHS Manager, I answer to the Board but am here to serve the members. My door is always open. I look forward to getting to know you all and sharing a passion for horticulture!
Jenny

Welcome Isabelle Weston, our new Events Coordinator

Isabelle has an impressive academic background with a Degree in Applied Business Management along with two postgraduate qualifications. Her deep-rooted love for gardening, particularly growing cut flowers, has blossomed into a keen passion for horticulture.

Together with her husband, Isabelle revitalized The Britten Stables, the beloved home of her late father, John Britten. Their meticulous restoration was featured on Grand Designs in 2018. Isabelle and Tim successfully operated the property as a charming BnB and events venue until they sold it in 2022.



Isabelle's dedication to horticulture beautifully complements her family life. Her vibrant flower garden serves as a delightful

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 14, 28 August 10am

All welcome, BYO materials
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Avon Bonsai Society

Monday 12 August 7pm

Kokedama & Show preparation workshop

For information about joining Email:

esther.bonsai23@gmail.com

Floral Design

Wednesday 21 August 1pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
The group is studying the upright styles of Ikebana under the tutoring of Ray King. This month's theme is branches only. Revise self-fixing in a flat dish.

Contact: **Ray King** tel: 021 037 0675

[See the latest arrangements online](#)

Garden Club Reps

Wednesday 7 August 10.30am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Fruit & Vegetable Group

Wednesday 28 August 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Chrysanthemum Group

Recess until September

Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

This month we will notice that the days are getting longer, so we hope that the weather will also begin to get warmer. July has been a month with many dull and cold days, with single-digit temperatures, so I have spent very few hours in the garden or greenhouse.

I have yet to complete the winter pruning and tidy-up in the garden, so these will need to be finished in the first two weeks of the month.

The winter conquer oil and copper sprays should be continued during the month, but watch out for any bud movement towards the end of the month so that the right copper spray can be applied on the stone fruit trees.

The cold, damp ground has made weeding difficult, but the weeds still carry on growing. Hopefully, we will get two or three dry, sunny

days that will make weeding possible. I have cleaned out the greenhouse and disinfected the propagating bench and trays ready for the first chrysanthemum cuttings and the sowing of seeds, which I will start this month. I will put the Begonia tubers onto the warm bed in the last week of the month.

Spring bulbs will be starting to emerge through the ground, so it is important to keep them free of weeds along with any perennials that are just below the ground ready to emerge.

The vegetable garden preparation for planting and sowing seeds by digging over the soil and green crops will need to be completed, but only work the soil if it is not too wet. Harvesting Winter crops can be difficult while the ground is very wet. To avoid compacting the ground, place a plank of wood along the rows to walk on to harvest the crop. Brassicas, lettuce, and silver beet may be sown now to

plant outside next month.

Greenhouse crops of tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers may be sown now if you have a heat pad or bench to germinate the seed and grow the seedlings on.

Remember, it takes six to seven weeks to have a plant ready for planting out (early seedlings will take a little longer).

The lawns are looking a bit unkempt now, but by the end of the month they will begin to grow, and a cut at the higher setting of the mower will make the grass look better. Although it is still too early to fertilise the lawn, you may treat the moss areas before they spread.

August is really the month signalling the end of winter and the promise of spring to come. It will test our patience as we wait for the real spring to arrive.

Enjoy the garden, **Michael Coulter**

playground for her two daughters, Adaline, 8, and Raphaela, 4, who fill their home with joy and laughter.

When not tending to her garden or busy with her children, Isabelle enjoys swimming at the local pool to stay fit.

Isabelle is thrilled about her new role as an Activity and Events Coordinator at the CHS. She is over the moon that she will be working in an environment where she will be able to continuously learn from those around her. Isabelle eagerly anticipates blending her events experience with her passion for horticulture to create engaging and inspiring events.

Scorpio Books

Book of the Month

Garden Against Time: In Search of a Common Paradise

By Olivia Laing

[Pre-orders now available](#) | \$49.99

'A garden contains secrets, we all know that: buried elements that might put on strange growth or germinate in unexpected places. The garden that I chose had walls, but like every garden it was interconnected, wide open to the world . . .'

In 2020, Olivia Laing began to restore a walled garden in Suffolk, an overgrown Eden of unusual plants.

The work drew her into an exhilarating investigation of paradise and its long association with gardens.

Moving between real and imagined gardens, from Milton's Paradise Lost to John Clare's enclosure elegies, from a wartime sanctuary in Italy to a grotesque aristocratic pleasure ground funded by slavery, Laing interrogates the sometimes shocking cost of making paradise on earth.

But the story of the garden doesn't

always enact larger patterns of privilege and exclusion. It's also a place of rebel outposts and communal dreams. From the improbable queer utopia conjured by Derek Jarman on the beach at Dungeness to the fertile vision of a common Eden propagated by William Morris, new modes of living can and have been attempted amidst the flower beds, experiments that could prove vital in the coming era of climate change.

The result is a beautiful and exacting account of the abundant pleasures and possibilities of gardens: not as a place to hide from the world but as a site of encounter and discovery, bee-loud and pollen-laden.

'What a wonderful book this is. I loved the enchanting and beautifully written story but also the fascinating and thoughtful excursions along the way.' – Nigel Slater

Thanks to Scorpio Books for this review
CHS Members enjoy a 10% discount at Scorpio Books & Telling Tales

www.scorpiobooks.co.nz



Friends of Canterbury Museum

Tuesday 20 August 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Johnathon Ridden

Associate Curator Natural History

This talk will profile how the Museum provides access to their collections.

Free, bring coins for raffles.

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). Join us for these great sessions!

Monday 5 August: Frogs

Monday 12 August: Nature Puppets

Monday 19 August: Caterpillars

Monday 26 August: Daffodils

[Bot Tots Facebook page](#)

Backyard Resilience Workshop with The Green Lab

Saturday 24 August 1.30pm - 4.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

With expertise from Landscape Architects and The Green Lab, you'll learn how to make your patch of backyard more resilient to extreme weather conditions and a haven for local wildlife. **\$80 per household.**

Booking essential: greenlab.org.nz/backyard



Friends of the
Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Winter Talk Series 2024

Friday 16 August 10.30am

Michael Reynolds – a short film and talk about Roimata Food Commons, a community food garden in Radley Park.

FOCBG AGM to follow talk.

Sunday 15 September 4pm

Dr Sara Kross, senior lecturer in Terrestrial Ecology: Understanding the interaction between wildlife and people.

Sunday 13 October 10.30am

Visit to Willow Springs Garden in Marshland

\$5 Friends & CHS Members

(\$10 General Public)



Christchurch
Envirohub

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.

Green Drinks: "Stormwater: Learning to Live with Water" with Peter Christensen

Thursday 15 August 6 - 8pm

Cascade Bar & Courtyard, 219 High Street

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 the programme: [@CHCHEnvirokids](#)

Green Thumbs Podcast

Fortnightly on Mondays at 9am, we chat to fellow green thumbs to help you discover more about our wonderful gardening community, followed by gardening book reviews. On **Monday 5 August** we chat Jördis Renz of [i_Foliage](#). With an incredible collection of houseplants, and a wealth of enthusiasm and information, this is a show you don't want to miss! On **Monday 19 August** we review 'Houseplants and Design: A New Zealand Guide' by Liz Carlson, followed by a look at 'Gardening Can Be Murder: How Poisonous Poppies, Sinister Shovels, and Grim Gardens Have Inspired Mystery Writers' by Marta McDowell.

Listen to Amy and Ray, CHS Green Thumbs, on Plains FM 96.9

www.chsgardens.co.nz/latest-podcasts-radio-stories

Garden Life *Monthly gardening programme for the everyday gardener*

September 2024

Wednesday 4 September 1pm & 5.30pm

Main Speaker: Matthew Falloon
General Manager, Aspara Pacific
Asparagus

Aspara Pacific has been involved in the New Zealand and International asparagus industry for over 45 years. They are involved in all aspects of growing asparagus, from breeding and propagation to fresh production. Their goal has always been to provide both the domestic and international asparagus community with the highest quality varieties,



whether that is as seed, crowns, or fresh asparagus.

Growing up on or around the asparagus farm and industry, Matthew was under a constant unofficial internship from his Father, Dr. Peter Falloon. After a hiatus from the business after university, he returned full-time in 2016 as General Manager. Since then, the business has had to be flexible and adapt to the shrinking New Zealand asparagus industry and navigate the challenges of COVID-19. Aspara Pacific is constantly looking at innovative ways to improve breeding and production, ensuring they produce the highest quality for their customers.

Matthew will bring in some of his biggest and best crowns for our members. Normally only sold in bulk.

He will put them into groups of five crowns as this is a good number to plant in 1 metre row

Five Crowns for \$15 including GST.

Mini Speaker: Taylor McConnell
Founder, SporeShift
Mushroom Growing

SporeShift Mushrooms NZ is a boutique mushroom farm in North Canterbury. Evolving out of Covid into a business passionate about teaching others to grow their own mushrooms at home and incorporate them into home gardens. Established in 2018 by Taylor, in an effort to build a business that is

environmentally sustainable and matches an eco-friendly lifestyle. "We aim to keep our



environmental impact positive, sourcing any substrates from local sustainable sources where possible ... know your farmer's farmer!"

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Armagh Street car park footbridge
\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)
Tea, coffee and biscuits *afternoon*
Cheese, crackers and fruit punch *evening*

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

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 coulthrys@xtra.co.nz

Plant of the Month

If you enjoy asparagus and are lucky enough to have the space in your garden, then why not try a bed of this herbaceous perennial. Once established, the crowns will produce asparagus for at least 20 years.

Asparagus is ideally suited to cold, frosty climates, where it's able to be dormant through the winter months. They are available bare-rooted in garden centres during late Autumn, and Winter.

Have a bed especially for asparagus as it doesn't like having its roots disturbed. Cultivate the soil to 30cm in the autumn, blend in well-rotted compost and leave for a couple of months prior to planting.

Plant the crowns with the roots facing down and in rows 15cm deep, 50cm apart and 1m in between rows. Planting too deep will



produce larger but fewer spears.

Don't be tempted to harvest your asparagus until the *third* season, until then, leave the spears to flower into feathery foliage, which will feed the developing crowns. In Autumn cut back the ferny foliage or allow it to die down. Here the crown will hide underground until the soil warms up again in spring. Asparagus is generally free of pests and disease, although subject to root rot if too wet and rust disease.

Having grown your own asparagus, there's nothing better than steaming or grilling it, and serving with a delicious hollandaise sauce!

Many thanks to Portstone Garden Centre for this update. CHS Members enjoy a 15% discount at Portstone Garden Centre www.portstone.co.nz

Join Our Transformation Team at Avebury!

Saturday 10 August 10am – 12pm
9 Evelyn Cousins Avenue, Richmond

Help us prepare the Avebury site for the CHS climate resilient garden with a variety of tasks—both large and small.

Can you help with weeding, ivy removal, pruning, or spreading bark chips? Bring along your hand tools; we'll provide wheelbarrows, spades, and forks.

Do you have a high-sided trailer? We need assistance transporting prunings to the Council green waste.

Meet fellow experienced gardeners and our garden designer. Exchange garden tips and knowledge over morning tea.

[Facebook event link](#)

