



Grow your own Cut Flowers

Sow a variety of seeds to brighten your garden

A relaxed session led by self-taught flower enthusiast Isabelle Weston. You'll learn how to nurture a thriving garden and take home seeds for future planting.

Thursday 12 September 6.30 - 8.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

\$40 (\$45 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)



Grow your own Cut Flowers

GARDEN LIFE SEPTEMBER Matthew Falloon

Asparagus

Wednesday 4 September 1pm & 5.30pm

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.

Veggie Seed Raising

Veggie Seed Raising

Grow healthy vegetable plants from seed

Perfect for beginners or anyone ready to plant veggie seeds this Spring! Join Luke Wood and leave with everything you need, including quality seed-raising mix and seeds.

Saturday 14 September 2 - 4pm, The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens

\$40 (\$45 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)



Botanical Ceramics

Vases, Plates & Tiles with Jane McCulla

Includes all materials, glazing and kiln firing!

Botanical Vases: 15 or 24 September 10am - 12.30pm

Botanical Plate: 7 or 10 November 10am - 12.30pm & 1-3pm

Green Man Tile: 2 March 2025 10am - 12.30pm

The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens

\$65 (\$80 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)



BOTANICAL CERAMICS Workshops

WITH CERAMICIST JANE MCCULLA

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 Afternoon:

Taylor McConnell, Mushroom Growing SporeShift Mushrooms NZ is a boutique mushroom farm in North Canterbury, founded by Taylor in 2018. Born from a passion to teach others to grow mushrooms at home, it focuses on environmentally sustainable practices, sourcing substrates locally whenever possible.

Mini Speaker Evening:

Alan Jolliffe, Historic places in NZ related to pioneer agriculture and food production.

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

*Tea, coffee and biscuits afternoon
Wine & nibbles evening*

BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR

CREATE YOUR OWN ARTWORK TO TAKE HOME



Botanical Watercolour

Immerse yourself in the art of botanical watercolours with artist Kay Duncan

Whether you are a novice or a seasoned painter, this workshop offers a fantastic opportunity to hone your skills and create stunning botanical artwork.

Sunday 13 October 2pm - 5pm, The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens

\$105 (\$135 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)

Edible Flowers

An enchanting workshop with Petal & Co.

Sip floral fizz while decorating your own cake with stunning edible flowers! Join Marion Smith and learn to identify non-toxic blooms, safe growing methods, and enjoy tasting recipes.

Saturday 19 October 3 - 5pm or Tuesday 22 October

12.30 - 2.30pm The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens

\$45 (\$60 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)



Edible FLOWERS

From the President

Kia Ora Members, Spring is springing, and it's been fantastic to be out in the garden! Things to note: **Parking Charges**
Don't panic about the "Parking in the Botanical Gardens" just yet. I/we are working hard on behalf of you and the other CHS members to address this issue. It's currently a moving feast, and we will keep you updated.

Botanical Expo: This is the one chance of the year to obtain interesting plants and enjoy a big plant and daffodil show. At CHS, we have a team helping to put this together, and things are looking very promising from what I have seen so far. This is a must for gardeners and plant enthusiasts, so be sure to put it in your diary!

Courses: Book the courses you see, and let us know if there are others you'd like. Isabelle and the team are planning new ones with more to come (including Margaret Watling). They've been very popular and are selling out, so if one interests you, register quickly.

Orchard in Schools (OIS): I spent time with Melissa Thompson (OIS Coordinator) visiting some schools today. Despite some changes to school buildings, we are doing really well in this area. The children are eager to learn, and

the orchards are thriving. This programme is getting back on track after a period of slowing down.

A huge thank you to the Office Team, Melissa from OIS, the Botanical Expo crew, and the Board for all the hard work that has been put in to keep CHS running so smoothly. Also, a big thank you to the members for attending and being part of CHS. Without you, there is no us.

Allan Paterson, President

Apple & Pear Grafting Workshops NZ Tree Crops

Wed 11 & Tuesday 24 September 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Includes 1x rootstock to graft your own tree!

\$20 (\$25 Non-Members) [Book online](#)

Friends of Canterbury Museum

Tuesday 17 September 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Annual Meeting, followed by presentation on the Museum Rebuild Progress.

Free, bring coins for raffles.

Canterbury Rose Society

Thursday 19 September 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Guest Speaker, **Catherine Moffitt-Wong of Stillwater Flowers**, rose and dahlia grower.
Come and join us as we kick off another season. *All welcome.*

Avon Bonsai Society

Monday 9 September 7pm

Tanuki by Tony from Christchurch

Tree type: Best Trees

Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 October

Annual Avon Bonsai Show

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

For information about joining Email:

esther.bonsai23@gmail.com

Christchurch Peony Club

Monday 16 September 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Guest Speaker: **Sacha, Prebbleton Peonies**

\$10 (Paid members free)

Orchid Show

Sat 5 Oct 10am - 4pm, Sun 6 Oct 10am - 3pm

Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club Hall, 110

Waltham Rd. Wonderful Displays. Sales from

Nationwide Growers. **\$5 entry**

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 11, 25 September 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Garden Club Reps

Wednesday 4 September 10.30am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Fruit & Vegetable Group

Wednesday 25 September 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Floral Design

Wednesday 18 September 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 contrasting colours using two containers.

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

[See the latest arrangements online](#)

Chrysanthemum Group

Saturday 21 September 1.30pm

Michael and Susan's 32 Haughey Drive

General cultural notes, propagation of Chrysanthemum plants. Discuss plans for Christmas Function.

Contact: **Robyn Purcell** tel: 942 9871

Email: dandrpurcell@gmail.com

Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

Has Spring arrived? It certainly seems so, with some of my fruit trees already in bloom (perhaps a bit early for some), daffodils in full flower, and the grass growing steadily. All the signs point to an early start to Spring, but as we know, the weather is fickle and can change rapidly—so gardeners, beware!

By the start of the month, all pruning of fruit trees and roses should be completed, along with preventative sprays for leaf curl and scale insects. Hardy vegetable seedlings can now be planted in well-prepared ground, and seed potatoes should be set out in trays for chitting, ready to plant when the shoots are well developed.

Much of this month's work involves preparing growing areas in the greenhouse or garden:

digging in compost, adding fertilisers, and clearing out the last of the winter crops. Rainfall for the year is still about 100 millimetres below the annual average, leading to a soil moisture deficit at 10 cm. If this trend continues, mulching to conserve soil moisture will be crucial.

Raising seeds in the greenhouse for later planting is a priority, but success depends on careful attention to hygiene in containers, seed trays, and tools. While raising your own seeds is satisfying, there are a few key points to remember: don't sow seeds too thickly, maintain the right germination temperature, use only clean potting or seed-raising mix, harden off seedlings gradually before pricking out, and don't let seedlings become leggy before pricking out. Following these basic principles will lead to successful plant raising.

The new Spring growth on many perennials, such as chrysanthemums and dahlias,

provides excellent material for cuttings, offering the chance to increase your plant numbers. Spring-flowering shrubs should be pruned as soon as they finish flowering, allowing new growth to produce next season's blooms.

With the lawns growing again, moss control can be applied after the grass has been cut 2-3 times, followed by fertilisers. Remember not to cut the grass too low—raise the mower height. Any repairs to hard-wearing areas of the lawn can now be made, allowing time for the grass to establish before the summer heat arrives.

This month is as much about planning as it is about physical work, so take the time to think about how you can improve your garden without creating more work.

Enjoy the Spring!

Michael Coulter

Book of the Month

Why Women Grow

By Alice Vincent

\$28 (\$39.99 **Hardback**)

Women have always gardened, but our stories have been buried with our

work. Alice Vincent is on a quest to change that: to understand what encourages women to go out, work the soil, plant seeds and nurture them, even when so many other responsibilities sit upon their shoulders. To recover the histories that have been lost among the soil and to understand women's lives, their gardens and what the ground has offered them. Wise, curious and sensitive, *Why Women Grow* follows Alice in her search for answers, with inquisitive fronds reaching and curling around the intimate anecdotes of others. A beautiful gift, or a treasure to keep for yourself.

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

www.scorpionbooks.co.nz

BALCONY DWELLERS

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 at Ōtakaro Orchard

Next session **Saturday 21 September 10am – 12pm**

\$20 (\$25 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)

Join our Transformation Team at Avebury!

Saturday 14 September 10am – 12pm

9 Evelyn Couzins Avenue, Richmond

Help us prepare the Avebury site for the CHS climate-resilient garden with various tasks—both large and small. Can you help with weeding, ivy removal, or spreading bark chips? Bring your hand tools; we'll provide wheelbarrows, spades, and forks. If you have a trailer, we need help transporting red waste to the Council waste transfer station. Meet fellow experienced gardeners and exchange tips over morning tea.

[Facebook event link](#)



Daffodil display at the Botanical Expo 2023

Green Thumbs Podcast

Fortnightly on Mondays at 9am, Ray & Amy chat to fellow green thumbs to help you discover more about our wonderful gardening community, followed by gardening book reviews. On **Monday 2nd September** they chat with David Adams of Templeton Daffodils. David will share his knowledge and passion for daffodils, and flower shows. On **Monday 16th** they review *The Kew Gardener's Guide to Growing Bulbs* by Richard Wilford, followed by *Grow Herbs: An inspiring guide to growing and using herbs* by Jekka McVicar. On **Monday 30th** they speak with Hamish Brown, of the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society (NZAGS) about his experiences growing and working with various alpine plants. **Listen live on Plains FM 96.9** or on the [CHS Website](#)

Spring is Blooming...
with Rare Plant Fair

BOTANICAL EXPO

Cafe Kids free

Daffodils, Spring Bulbs, Alpines, Floral Art, Bonsai, Demonstrations

LINCOLN EVENT CENTRE | 15 MEIJER DRIVE | \$5 ENTRY

21 SEPTEMBER 1PM & 22 SEPTEMBER 10AM

WWW.BOTANICALEXPO.NZ

BOTANICAL EXPO DINNER

Guest Speakers
Daryl & Linda Rowan

Early Season Alpine Plants of the high Plateaus of Georgia and Armenia

Register via the CHS website

\$45 per person

Saturday 21 September
Bar Open from 5pm - Dinner served 6pm



Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Sunday 15 September 4pm

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

\$5 Friends & CHS Members (\$10 General Public)

Sunday 13 October 10.30am

Visit to Willow Springs Garden in Marshland



Christchurch Envirohub

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 the programme: [@CHCHEnvirokids](#)

Free

Canterbury Daffodil Championship Show

presented by Canterbury Horticultural Society

Flower posies for sale to support Canterbury Garden Club Reps

Weekend of 7th & 8th September 10am - 4pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens Te Māra Huaotā o Waipapa

www.chsgardens.co.nz

\$5 Posie fundraiser

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).

2 September Webs: Spiders!

9 September Grass Seed Friends

16 September Bees and Pollen

23 September Welcome Spring: Seasons

30 September Holidays - no session

Bot Tots Facebook page

Garden Life *Monthly gardening programme for the everyday gardener*

October 2024

Tuesday 1 October 6pm

Wednesday 2 October 1pm

Main Speaker: Elizabeth Wilks
CHS Avebury: A climate resilient garden

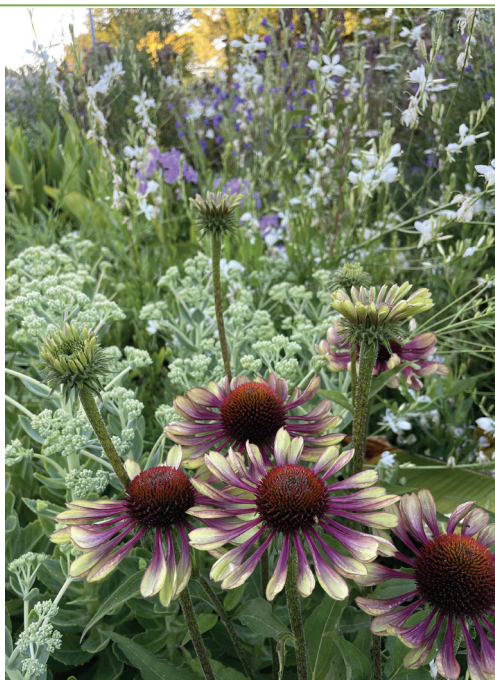
In the grounds of historic Avebury House CHS is creating an ornamental garden. CHS Avebury aims to showcase how gardeners can cope with projected climate change in Canterbury in a sustainable way.

The NIWA predictions indicate that by 2040 the intensity and length of droughts in Canterbury will increase. Summers will be drier while winter rainfall will become more intense, but infrequent. As gardeners we each have a choice in how we respond to this climatic reality: we can either continue to irrigate or we can garden for climatic resilience.

The CHS Avebury garden design is plant-driven with a complex blend of climate resilient native and exotic species. The main axis is defined by Fibonacci proportions, clipped spheres and strategically placed obelisks which echo some of the historic Avebury garden features. This subtle structure is designed to counter-balance the loose, immersive and naturalistic planting style.

The Designer: Elizabeth Wilks

My training and career is in environmental science, but I am a life-long gardener and garden designer. I am fortunate - my mother and grandfather initiated me into the joy of



observing and growing plants from a very young age. I grew up in Africa, the UK and South East Asia and arrived in NZ in the early 1990s. NZ has been my home ever since. My home gardens have ranged from a tiny balcony with pots in Wellington, via a quarter acre in a rural Otago township to 5 acres of windswept Hawkes Bay hillside. I now garden a quarter acre in Christchurch, a site which I have designed to feel like a woodland glade. From a design perspective, I find each site has challenges to embrace while identifying natural assets to enhance.

My garden designs always start with place. For a garden to resonate with me it must reflect its location - its climate, environment

and soils; the history and current usage. Plant choices are driven by Beth Chatto's concept of right plant, right place. My environmental background leads me to design plant communities - densely vertically layered associations where individuals mingle and the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Mini Speakers: Ben Alder, Envirohub (Wednesday) | **Jane Cowen-Harris, Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens** (Tuesday)

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
 Armagh Street car park footbridge
 \$5 (\$10 Non-Members)
 Tea, coffee and biscuits *afternoon*
 Wine & nibbles *evening*

See our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) for updates. **We want your Problems!**

New timings for Garden Life

Tuesday evening, followed by Wednesday afternoon!

We're so happy to confirm that Garden Life is returning to a Tuesday Evening session! This will run from 6pm on the first Tuesday of the month with a chance for socialising over a glass of wine and nibble before the session starts at **6.30pm**. Along with our usual guest speakers, Michael Coulter will return with his fabulous tips and tricks making the evening both informative and social.

We hope to see you there from October onwards.

Plant of the Month - Spuds

- Purchase certified seed potatoes. They will be free of disease and viruses and more reliable.
- Pre-sprouting (chitting) seed potatoes is not essential but provides stronger growth. Spread the seed potatoes out in a dry area away from direct light and allow sprouts to develop to approximately 1-2 cm in length.
- Potatoes need full sun and well drained fertile soil. Make a planting hole 15-20cm deep. If you are using fertilizer or manure add a layer of soil on top of this before placing the seed. This prevents burning of the young shoots.
- Space your seed potatoes about 25cm apart with sprouts pointing upwards and cover with soil.
- When the plants reach about 10cm in height start mounding the soil around the stems. Keep mounding the soil as the

plant grows. This protects the potatoes from going green and from insects.

- Water regularly to keep the soil moist and remove weeds.
- Potato fertiliser can be applied. Some good products are Morton Smith-Dawe High Grade Potato Fertiliser or Tui Potato Food.
- Make a note on the calendar for your expected harvest date. Not all potato varieties produce flowers, but flowering is a good sign that some baby potatoes are ready to eat.
- For main crops that you want to store, let the plants die right back before lifting. This allows the skin to strengthen for long keeping.

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



Sneak Peak at What's Coming up at Garden Life

Later in the year we welcome Valmai Becker from **Phytofarm** in Little River as a guest speaker.

Valmai is a well known Naturopath from her years as a clinical practitioner and her involvement in the establishment of Canterbury College of Natural Medicine.

Phytofarm is now her primary passion, where she brings together a number of her skills: gardener, teacher, learner and care taker of 10 acres of forest and gardens.

The Phytofarm apprenticeship offers a unique approach to herbal education and is definitely worth a look for anyone interested in learning more about herbal products and growing medicinal plants. Visit www.phytofarm.co.nz