



## Pressed Flower Workshops

Craft and Create with Nature

Join renowned flower preservationist and artist Debz Eagle for inspiring workshops in flower pressing and botanical art.

**Pressed Flowers: Sunday 23 March 10am - 12pm**

**Pressed Flower Art: Sunday 4 May 10am - 1pm**

**\$60** (\$80 Non-Members) at The Kiosk

Use the coupon code **SAVE\$10** to save \$10 when booking both.

## GARDEN LIFE MARCH

### Colin Meurk

Xeric Gardens

**Tuesday 4th 6pm** (drinks & nibbles)

Meeting starts at 6.30pm

**Wednesday 5th 1pm** (cuppa & baking)



Xeric gardening focuses on growing drought-tolerant plants to conserve water and thrive in arid conditions. Colin will talk about creating appealing native gardens that are adapted to local and ever-changing conditions - without incurring excess water charges.

Dr. Colin Meurk, ONZM, is a distinguished New Zealand ecologist renowned for his contributions to ecological restoration and urban ecology. He holds adjunct positions at both Canterbury and

Lincoln Universities and serves as a Research Associate at Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research.

Dr. Meurk's work encompasses applied biogeography, landscape dynamics, and conservation biology. He has been instrumental in projects such as the ecological restoration of Christchurch's Travis Wetland and the development of the Christchurch 360 Trail. In recognition of his services to ecological restoration, he was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2021.

### Mini Speaker: Marion Smith

Marion runs Petal & Co, a sustainable flower farm near Rangiora, specialising in edible flowers for Christchurch's hospitality, bakers, and home cooks, while promoting eco-friendly practices.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
**\$5** (\$10 Non-Members) Pay on the door  
Tea, coffee and baking *afternoon*  
Wine & nibbles *evening*



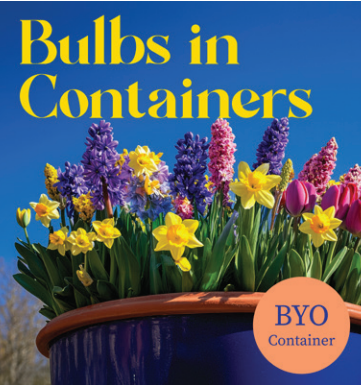
## Botanical Watercolour

Create stunning Botanical Watercolours

Whether you are a novice or a seasoned painter, this workshop offers a fantastic opportunity to hone your skills and create a finished artwork to take home. A repeat of Kay Duncan's popular 2024 workshop.

**Sunday 6 April 2025 10am - 1pm** at The Kiosk

**\$125** (\$155 Non-Members)



## Bulbs in Containers

Learn how to successfully grow bulbs in containers with David Adams

A hands-on workshop where you'll learn the art of planting and maintaining stunning bulb container gardens. *Take home a selection of unique bulb cultivars.*

**Sunday 13 April 10am - 12pm** at The Kiosk

**\$45** (\$60 Non-Members)



## Garden Design Course

Join our seven-session garden design course to gain practical skills and fresh insights for creating a beautiful, functional outdoor space. Sessions include hands-on activities and the opportunity to work on your own garden design project.

**Wednesdays 7-9pm 7 May - 13 June** at The Kiosk

*Includes a practical session on Sunday 15 June*

**\$590** (\$650 Bundled with a new CHS Membership)



Book our courses and workshops online!



## Botanical Ceramics

Create a Botanically Inspired Mug, Bud Vase or Container with Jane McCulla

**Botanical Mug: Saturday 10 May 2-4pm**

**Botanical Bud Vases: Sunday 24 August 2-4pm**

**Botanical Container with Lid: Sunday 7 September 2-4pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

**\$65** (\$80 Non-Members)

# Life in the Garden

with Alan Jolliffe

March is ideal for harvesting fruit and vegetables. Surplus produce is common, and freezing remains the most popular preservation method—it's quick, easy, and cost-effective. Clean, blanch, cool, dry, and pack vegetables into freezer bags before freezing. Bottling fruit and beetroot, while more time-consuming, adds colour to your pantry and there are many great recipes to explore.

This is also the time to bring garden plans to life. Prepare new ground, remove unwanted plants, and get ready for new ones. Cooler weather (before frosts arrive) is perfect for this work. Keep gardens watered regularly—Autumn can be warm and dry.

## Edible Garden

- Sow: silver beet, turnips, onions, broad beans, parsley.
- Sow a green manure crop (mustard) in unused beds.
- Plant: succession crops of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, silver beet, and

Brussels sprouts.

- Protect cauliflower heads from sunburn and frost by folding leaves over the top of the curd.
- Harvest and preserve beetroot.

## Flower Garden

- Take cuttings from shrubs.
- Plant Spring-flowering bulbs (or plan for April planting). Sow sweet peas directly.
- Plant wallflowers and polyanthus late in the month.
- Trim shrubs and perennials to keep them tidy.
- Prepare shrubs for relocation by 'wrenching'—partially dig around the roots to encourage new growth.

## Lawns

- Prepare and sow lawn seed in late March; keep well-watered.
- Fill hollows with sieved soil for an even surface.
- Use selective lawn sprays to control weeds.
- Fertilise to promote strong Winter growth.

## Glasshouse

- Harvest tomatoes; cook and freeze surplus pulp in small containers.
- Remove weeds and monitor for pests to prevent next year's problems.

## Fruit

- Plant new strawberry plants to establish roots before Winter.
- Harvest fruit carefully to avoid branch damage.
- Remove and dispose of any spoiled fruit.
- Fertilise citrus trees and spray with copper-based sprays.
- Prune old canes from raspberries and boysenberries.

## Friends of the Canterbury Museum

Tuesday 18 March 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Anthony Wright - Director Canterbury Museum

Update on Museum Rebuild Progress

Visitors welcome

## Bot Tots March

**Mondays 10 - 11.30am** (term time only)

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. (\$2 koha per tamariki).

**3 March** Ocean Week

**10 March** Scented Posy with Up-cycled Jars

**17 March** Magical St Patrick's Day

**24 March** Cards with Natural Dyes/Flowers

**31 March** Nature Portraits

[Bot Tots Facebook page](#)

## Avon Bonsai Society

**Monday 10 March 7pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

**Feature:** Bonsai Phone Photography Critique/Raffle. **Tree of the Month:** Windswept. *Visitors welcome*

[www.avonbonsai.org.nz](http://www.avonbonsai.org.nz)

## Watercolour Painting

**Wednesday 12 & 26 March 10am**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

## Chrysanthemum Group

**Saturday 15 March 1.30pm**

Meeting at Nelson's

Disbudding, general cultural notes, pest control. Housing of lates, problem solving and questions.

Contact Robyn if you'd like to join this small group of passionate chrysanthemum growers.

**Robyn Purcell** tel: 942 9871 or 021 179 8186

Email: [dandrpurcell@gmail.com](mailto:dandrpurcell@gmail.com)

## AGM

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Canterbury Horticultural Society is on **Tuesday 25 March, 7pm** at The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Voting documents: [chsgardens.co.nz/agm](http://chsgardens.co.nz/agm)

Nominations due **Tuesday 11 March**.

## CHS Awards 2025

Nominations are now open for the Canterbury Horticultural Society 2025 Awards. These will be presented at the AGM. Nominations are sought for the following awards: **Silver Service; Kowhai; Outstanding Horticulturalist; John Taylor and the Garden Media Award**.

Visit our website to make a nomination: [www.chsgardens.co.nz/awards](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/awards)

## From the President

It's nearly the end of my time as your President, and it has been one of the most interesting experiences of my recent life.

My term can be divided into three key areas:

### COVID-19 and the 160th Events Calendar:

The calendar was completed a year later than planned as we all found our footing again.

### Lease Renewal and Staffing:

The Christchurch City Council lease process was lengthy, but thanks to the excellent staff and board members around me, it was completed smoothly.

In terms of staffing, there have been changes in the office, with Emma being the only remaining team member.



### Car Parking:

While perhaps not as significant as the other issues, parking remains a topic close to the heart of the current CHS.

I have had the pleasure of working with everyone, which I've thoroughly enjoyed, always returning to the fundamentals of gardening.

Thank you to all who have supported me through this journey and for the colourful comments along the way. One important lesson I kept in mind throughout was this: you are here for the members, not yourself.

With that, I bow my head and thank you all for the privilege of serving.

**Allan Paterson** – CHS President

## 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.



Christchurch Envirohub hosts **Green Drinks** networking events every month. Join them on the third Thursday of each month for more engaging environmental talks and great company!



**Christchurch Envirokids** **FREE**

CONNECTING KIWI KIDS TO OUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY

The Envirokids programme provides a chance to join a range of activities, meet other Envirokids, and most of all, have fun doing it!



Check out our free weekly events!

## Friends of the Gardens

### Botanic Gardens Guided Walks

The Friend's FREE daily guided walks include a fabulous line-up of new and favourite walks through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Walks take approximately one hour, starting at the Kiosk at 1.30pm.

**Mona Vale Guided Walks** take place on **Saturday 8 and 22 March 1.30pm** (90 mins).

[See the full schedule online](#)

## Passionate about Plants?

The Friends are looking for enthusiastic volunteer guides for 2025!

Join a supportive team of like-minded folk who love to learn and share their knowledge. Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a storyteller, a history buff or just keen to try something new, we'd love to hear from you! Full training is provided.

Come along to our information evening to meet the team and learn about the role.

**Thursday 13 March 7.15 - 9pm**  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens



[friendsofthegardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthegardens@gmail.com)

## Christchurch Peony Club

**Monday 17 March 7pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

### Peony Propagation Information Session

- \$10 General Public
- Free for paid peony club members

Visit their [facebook page](#) for more info

## Canterbury Rose Society

**Thursday 20 March 7.30pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Claire Gilroy from Gilroy Rose Nurseries will give a talk on John Ford Roses, a foremost breeder in New Zealand who exports to the UK. *All welcome*

## Mid Winter Christmas Crafts

**Wednesday 25 June 1-3pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Join Anne Gane and Gail Scrivener for an afternoon of festive crafting at the Kiosk. Christmassy afternoon tea and all materials included. *Online bookings available soon!*

## Floral Design

**Wednesday 19 March 1pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The group is studying the upright styles of Ikebana under the tutoring of Ray King. The March programme looks at vertical composition.

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

[New arrangements online](#)

## Fruit & Vegetable Group

**Wednesday 26 March 6.30pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The March programme will be available soon, keep an eye on your inbox and our facebook page.

Admission is free to CHS members \$5 Non-Members. For more information or to join the group, please contact President **Elizabeth Woolley** Email: [eliberta@xtra.co.nz](mailto:eliberta@xtra.co.nz)

## Canterbury Herb Society

**Thursday 27 March 7pm**

The Craft Room, Avicé Hill Craft Centre, 395 Memorial Ave

Canterbury Herb Society exist to promote the use of herbs, both culinary and medicinal.

Visit their [facebook group](#) for monthly meeting information.

## Scorpio Books

### Book of the Month

#### Spanish Gardens

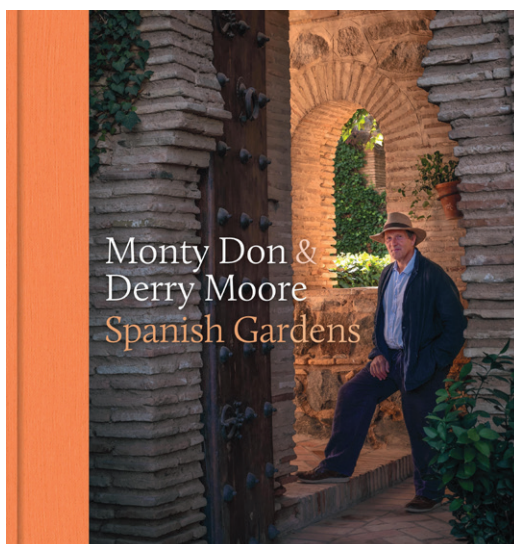
Monty Don

\$95 [Hardback](#)

Based on his new BBC travel series, bestselling author Monty Don takes us on a personal journey through the gardens and green spaces of Spain.

For over a decade, Monty Don has travelled the world, using gardens and green spaces to get under the skin of our most beloved cities and countries. Many of his destinations were well-known to him. For his latest journey, though, he explored Spain as a relative newcomer – and he kept a detailed record of his travels.

Starting in Madrid and working his way north through the verdant gardens of Galicia, the Basque country and Barcelona, Monty then heads south to the rugged tropical climes of



Mallorca, Alicante, Andalucia, Malaga, and Seville. It's a chance for him to explore how Spain has evolved from the darker days after the civil war to its successful transition to democracy over fifty years ago, tracing those changes through its gardens – from the more conventional gardens created after the war to the rich and inventive approaches of contemporary designers.

Accompanied by Derry Moore's stunning photography, Spanish Gardens is a remarkable and personal journey through one of the most popular country destinations on earth.

*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)

# Garden Life 2025

## April

**Tuesday 1st 6pm & Wednesday 2nd 1pm**

### Main Speaker: Astrid Harris

*Champion of Healthy Soil*

Astrid Harris is a passionate gardener dedicated to cultivating healthy soil and promoting sustainable gardening practices. Using a microscope to analyse soils and composts, she identifies whether the right balance of microbes is present to enable natural nutrient cycling with minimal external inputs. When soil microbes are in harmony, nature can thrive on its own.

Astrid combines hands-on experience with a deep understanding of soil ecosystems, regenerative agriculture, and ecosystem restoration. Her work focuses on helping communities nurture the earth to grow vibrant, nutritious plants.

### Mini Speaker: Louise Young

*Curator, Christchurch Botanic Gardens*

Louise's career at the Botanic Gardens started with an apprenticeship in the 1990's. It wasn't until 2000 in partnership with the Friends that she helped develop the Curator's garden. The purpose was to demonstrate how to grow fruit and vegetables in a small area. Louise will share her love of heritage vegetables as well as some more unusual culinary and medicinal plants among other things!

## May

**Tuesday 6th 6pm & Wednesday 7th 1pm**

### Main Speaker: Dr. Matthew Cromey

*Plant Pathologist*

Dr. Matthew Cromey is a Senior Plant Pathologist at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). He develops strategies to manage diseases affecting ornamental and edible plants, combining RHS research findings with other sources to provide effective advice.

Now living in New Zealand, his work includes diagnosing plant problems, conducting field research, and collaborating with various stakeholders to manage garden diseases. Dr. Cromey has contributed to numerous scientific publications on plant pathology.

### Mini Speakers: Mary & Rick

*Sogetsu School of Ikebana*

The Christchurch branch of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana offers instruction in the modern Japanese art of flower arranging. Certified instructors teach a structured program from the Sogetsu headquarters in Tokyo, focusing on balance, movement, and harmony in floral designs.

### The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Armagh Street car park footbridge

\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)

Tea, coffee and baking *afternoon*

Wine & nibbles *evening*

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

## Green Thumbs March

Our radio programme is on air every two weeks! Fortnightly on **Mondays at 9am**, we chat to fellow green thumbs in Canterbury to help you discover more about our wonderful gardening community, followed by gardening book reviews to see if we can entice you to add more to your bookshelves (or visit your local library!).

On **Monday 3rd March** we'll be chatting with Catherine (and Lin & Vic) from the New

Brighton Community Gardens. We visited them on a gorgeous sunny day, and were so impressed by the dedication and care that has gone into these Gardens!

On **Monday 17th March** Amy will be looking at the 'Kōanga Garden Guide' by Kay Baxter, and Ray will be reviewing 'Succulents Made Easy - a Beginner's Guide' by Tokiro (Yoshinobu Kondo).

Listen to Amy and Ray, CHS Green Thumbs, on [Plains FM 96.9](#)



## Spring Bulbs

Flowering bulbs bring brilliant colours to your garden from late Winter through to Summer. At Portstone, we offer a fantastic selection, including anemones, freesias, ranunculi, hyacinths, scillas, muscari, and gladioli. The best time to plant is from mid-February to April.

Bulbs are adaptable to various soil types but thrive in well-drained soil. Improve your soil by adding compost, sheep pellets, or Ocean Fert. Topping with a layer of bulb mix creates ideal growing conditions. Plant bulbs at a depth twice their diameter. If planting in containers, choose ones at least 15 cm deep to support healthy root growth. Apply liquid fertiliser when flower buds appear and again after flowering has finished.

In warmer climates, chilling certain bulbs before planting—such as anemones, ranunculi, and hyacinths—gives them a better start. Simply place the bulbs in their original

packaging in the fridge for 3–5 weeks.

Anemones, ranunculi, and muscari look striking when planted en masse, whether in garden beds or pots. Position them in full sun to semi-shade for the best results. Muscari make excellent borders. For a strong visual impact, plant bulbs in groups of at least 25. Soak anemone and ranunculus bulbs in water for two hours before planting. Both varieties make beautiful cut flowers that last well in a vase. Staggering your planting will prolong their garden display.

Scilla, commonly known as bluebells, is hardy and thrives in partial shade, making it ideal for planting beneath trees.

For containers, the best Spring-flowering bulbs are daffodils, tulips, freesias, hyacinths, and scillas. Freesias are a Kiwi favourite, cherished for their sweet fragrance, while



hyacinths are also highly scented. Growing bulbs in pots has the added benefit of allowing you to bring them indoors while they're flowering. Hyacinths can even be grown in jars, and we have these Growing Glass jars available at Portstone.

Gladioli, or "Gladdies," are stunning Summer bloomers, producing tall, slender stems ranging from 80–120 cm. They prefer full sun and require shelter from wind. Since insects and fungi can affect gladioli, it's advisable to spray them with insecticide every 2–3 weeks.

For all bulbs, it's essential to let the foliage die down completely before removing it. This ensures the nutrients return to the bulb, promoting strong growth for the next season.



**Thanks to Portstone Garden Centre for this update.**

**CHS Members enjoy a 15% discount at Portstone**

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