



GARDEN DESIGN

Learn to design with confidence and creativity – practical skills for a beautiful, functional garden



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)

GARDEN LIFE APRIL

Astrid Harris

Healthy Soil

Tuesday 1st 6pm

(drinks & nibbles)

Meeting starts at 6.30pm

Wednesday 2nd 1pm

(cuppa & baking)



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!



Book our courses and workshops online!

Mid Winter Christmas Craft and High Tea

Delight in crafting exquisite decorations with CHS Members Anne Gane & Gail Scrivener



Mid Winter Christmas Craft & High Tea

A magical Mid Winter Christmas celebration at the Kiosk!

Delight in crafting exquisite decorations with CHS Members Anne Gane & Gail Scrivener

Wednesday 25 June 1-4pm at The Kiosk

\$30 (\$40 Non-Members)

BOTANICAL CERAMICS Workshops

WITH CERAMICIST JANE MCCULLA

Botanical Ceramics

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

Botanical Mug: Saturday 10 May 2-4pm (Mother's Day Gift!)

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)

Bonsai Workshop

Join bonsai artist Aaron Curtis for an in-depth 4-hour workshop experience in the Botanic Gardens

Take home a 2.5L nursery juniper and a high quality ceramic Yixing bonsai pot.

Sunday 3 August 9am - 1pm at The Kiosk

\$65 (\$80 Non-Members)

BONSAI WORKSHOP

with Aaron Curtis from Shino Bonsai

Bonsai made Simple



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

Autumn in the Garden

With the Equinox behind us, Autumn is in full swing. Leaves are changing colour across the city and countryside, and the garden is transitioning to cooler days.

Harvest & Preserve Keep harvesting tomatoes, courgettes, and other Summer crops to preserve for Winter. Freeze them whole, or turn them into soups and stocks to store for colder months.

Perennials & Propagation Perennials are still flowering strongly, but daily deadheading will keep blooms coming for longer. Now is a great time to pick up discounted perennials and get them in the ground so they can establish roots before the first frost. It's also the perfect time to take runner cuttings from strawberry plants and pot them up for next Summer—an excellent way to ensure healthy plants each year.

Fruit Trees & Protection Most fruit trees have finished fruiting, and their leaves are beginning to fall. Now is the time for protective spraying with conqueror oil and copper sulphate to combat diseases like

curly leaf before Spring. Be sure to clean up fallen leaves and fruit to prevent insects from overwintering in them.

Winter Crops & Care Winter vegetables will need watering as the weather remains unpredictable. Cabbage white butterflies are still around, and their caterpillars have been particularly active this year, so keep an eye on your brassicas. There is still time to plant brassica seedlings, spring onions, and quick-growing Asian greens such as Bok Choy.

Garden Preparation Now is the time to tidy up beds, replenish the soil, and collect seeds for next year. Label perennials to avoid disturbing them when planting in Spring. Bulbs should be organised now for planting by the end of April—garden centres have a great selection available if you haven't already ordered online.

Safety & Indoor Plants Treat mossy patches on steps and paths now to prevent slips when frosty mornings arrive. Indoors, houseplants need less water but will appreciate one last round of fertiliser. Remove dead or ageing leaves to keep them healthy.

Enjoy the Season! **Amy & Ray**

Chrysanthemum LOCAL SHOW



Local Growers Wonderful Blooms

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 April 10am - 4pm
Get up close and personal with these glorious blooms at The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens. Meet the growers and be inspired to grow your own Chrysanthemum's at home! **Free Entry**

Bot Tots April/May

Mondays 10 - 11.30am (term time only)

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

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

28 April Design your own Bug Posters

5 May Mother's Day theme - Paperbag Posy

12 May Pink Shirt Day

19 May Magical Nature Wand

26 May King's B-Day theme - Nature Crown

[Bot Tots Facebook page](#)

Avon Bonsai Society

Monday 9 April 7pm

This month is a Combined Club night with the Christchurch Bonsai Society at their club rooms at Cotswold Preschool Hall, 37 Colesbury Street - Shohin/Mame by Chris

Tree of the Month- Bring your current best tree. *Visitors welcome*

www.avonbonsai.org.nz

Chrysanthemum Group

Saturday 12 April 1.30pm

Meeting at Michael and Susan's home

Preparing for the Autumn Show at the Kiosk, set up and breakdown etc. Tips on staging of flowers with a demonstration

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

From the President

A heartfelt thank you to all CHS members who attended the AGM and Awards Night. Your support and enthusiasm make our Society the vibrant community it is. It was wonderful to celebrate the achievements of our award recipients and to reflect on another successful year. I am honoured to step into the role of President, grateful to Allan Paterson for his tenure, and look forward to working together to continue growing and strengthening CHS.

Kelly Perazzolo, CHS President

Celebrating Excellence: CHS Awards 2025

CHS proudly honours this year's award recipients, celebrating their dedication, expertise, and passion for horticulture.

Kowhai Award – Recognising outstanding voluntary service:

Elizabeth Wilks – A visionary garden designer and environmental scientist, whose leadership in the CHS Avebury Climate Resilient Garden has been invaluable.

Debz Eagle – A talented artist and educator, whose creativity shines through her pressed flower courses and community garden projects, inspiring many.

Joseph Austin – A dedicated horticulturist and daffodil expert, generously sharing his knowledge of plant propagation and garden care.



Silver Service Award – Honouring exceptional long-term commitment:

Gail Scrivener, whose unwavering support and leadership as Vice President and Board Member have strengthened the Society in countless ways.

Gold Service Award – A prestigious new honour:

Michael Coulter, a CHS member since 1969, whose deep horticultural expertise and generosity continue to guide and inspire.

With his recent retirement from presenting Tips & Tasks at Garden Life he will be deeply missed.



A Taste of Tangleby

Stories, Sips & Secrets of the Garden
with Author Sue Heazlewood



A Taste of Tangleby

Saturday 22 November 1.30pm

14 Joy Place, Ohoka

Walk, Talk and Taste with gardener & award-winning author Sue Heazlewood

Join us for an enchanting afternoon at the beautiful Tangleby Gardens. Featuring a talk from the author, cooking demo and decadent afternoon tea, you're sure to be inspired by Tangleby's captivating Canterbury setting. *from \$95pp*

Friends of the Gardens

Botanic Gardens FREE Guided Walks

Enjoy new and favourite walks through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Walks take approx one hour and start at the Kiosk at 1.30pm. **Mona Vale Guided Walks** take place on **Saturday 12 and 26 April 1.30pm** (90 mins). [See the full schedule online](#)

Summer Talk Series

Sunday 27 April 4pm: TBA

Members & CHS Members :\$5
(10 Non-Members)

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 Peony Club

Annual Peony Plant Market

Sunday 4 May 10am

Ground floor functions room in the Multi-Cultural Community Centre
455 Hagley Avenue

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

Canterbury Rose Society

Thursday 17 April 7.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
All welcome

Visit the Rose Society's [facebook page](#)

Friends of the Canterbury Museum

Tuesday 15 April 10am

(Speaker begins 10.15am)

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Mark Fraser - Collections Technician Natural History Canterbury Museum

Population monitoring of Chatham Island Albatross and Northern Buller's Albatross at the Chatham Islands 2006-2010

Visitors welcome

Floral Design

Wednesday 16 April 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 30 April 6.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The April 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



David Adams, an internationally recognised daffodil expert, passionate educator, and champion of sustainable gardening.

Green Thumbs April

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!).

CHS Garden Reps

No Meeting in April

The Reps will meet again on **Wednesday 7 May** (a visit or activity is planned for this meeting).

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 9 & 23 April 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

On **Monday 14 April** we'll be chatting with **Elizabeth Wilks**. An environmental scientist and lifelong gardener with a passion for garden design. Elizabeth focuses on developing naturalistic gardens that harmonize with their surroundings.



On **Monday 28 April**, Amy will be reviewing 'New Zealand Native Ground Cover Plants' by Lawrie Metcalf & Roy Edwards, and Ray will be reviewing 'Square Foot Gardening', prepared by The Square Foot Gardening Foundation.

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

Link available from: www.chsgardens.co.nz

Garden Media Award – Celebrating impact in horticultural media:

Amy Wilson, for her engaging work as co-presenter of CHS's Green Thumbs and her dedication to educating and inspiring gardeners.

Outstanding Horticulturalist Award

– *Recognising significant contributions to the field of horticulture:*

Sue Molloy, for her incredible work at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, preserving plant history and advancing horticultural knowledge.

John Taylor Award – *Presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the development and sharing of horticultural knowledge.*

Garden Life 2025

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 Speaker: David Adams
Highlights from the 2025 Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards

June

Tuesday 3rd 6pm & Wednesday 4th 1pm

Main Speaker: Michael Brown
Rose Pruning Demonstration



A passionate plantsman renowned for his extensive experience in growing and hybridizing roses, daffodils, chrysanthemums, and begonias. As the current and former president of the Canterbury Rose Society, Michael has showcased his expertise at a national level, both as a competitor and judge. Now retired, he dedicates his time to creating new blooms on his 1-hectare property in Loburn, North Canterbury. Michael will be conducting a live pruning demonstration with plants suitable for pruning in bush and miniature form.

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.

Plant of the Month

Acer palm.dis. Crimson Princess
(palmatum dissectum)

As we head into Autumn, we have a wonderful display of weeping maples with vibrant colours of orange, purple, yellow and red.

A popular Japanese Maple for your garden is Acer palm dis. Crimson Princess. It's valued for its compact size, delicate ferny foliage and brilliant autumnal colours.

With their delicate lacy leaves, they prefer a little shade and shelter from any strong winds. If growing in pots, it's important to keep the water up to ensure they do not dry out.

Acer palmatum Crimson Princess is a compact, weeping Japanese maple renowned for its finely dissected, deep crimson foliage. The delicate, lace-like leaves retain their vibrant red colour throughout spring, turning brick red and bronze green in Summer before



transitioning to brilliant scarlet in Autumn. Its graceful, cascading form makes it a stunning feature in smaller gardens or containers displays.

Perfect for Japanese, woodland, or courtyard gardens, it works beautifully as a specimen

tree or in borders with contrasting foliage plants. Its elegant form also suits water features or shaded patio areas.

Thrives in partial shade to full sun, with protection from harsh afternoon sunlight in hotter climates. Prefers moist, well-drained soil rich in organic matter and benefits from a sheltered position to protect its delicate foliage.

Reaches a mature height of 2-3 m with a similar spread, forming a weeping, dome-like silhouette that adds movement and beauty to any garden.

For more information on Acers, refer to the CHS Newsletter #315 from November 2024.



Thanks to Portstone Garden Centre for this update. CHS Members enjoy a 15% discount at Portstone

www.portstone.co.nz

Scorpio Books

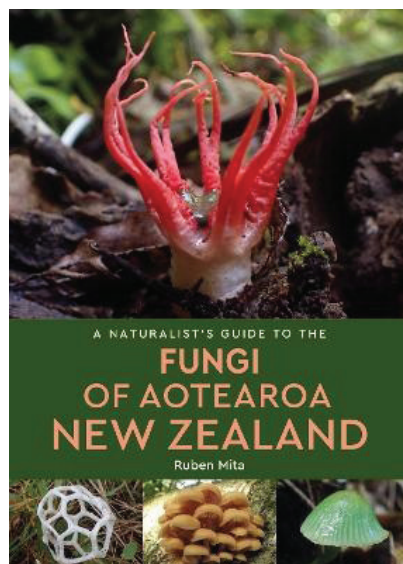
Books of the Month

A Naturalist's Guide to the Fungi of Aotearoa New Zealand

By Ruben Mita

\$29.99, Paperback

'A Naturalist's Guide to the Fungi of Aotearoa New Zealand' is an easy-to-use introductory identification guide to 267 species of New Zealand's fungi, described at species or genus level; perfect for residents and visitors alike. High quality photographs are accompanied by detailed species descriptions, which include



nomenclature, size, identifying characteristics, habitat, possible confusion and edibility or toxicity.

The user-friendly introduction gives an overview of what fungi are, how to make a spore print, foraging, taxonomy and naming, plus a glossary.

Ruben Mita is an ecologist and writer living in Poneke Wellington. Growing up in the Waitakere Ranges of Tamaki Makaurau Auckland, he discovered a love of fungi from an early age. He holds degrees in Ecology and Biodiversity, Ecological Restoration, English and Music from Te Herenga Waka University of Wellington, and is also a published poet.

Thanks to Scorpio Books for this review

CHS Members enjoy a 10% discount at Scorpio Books & Telling Tales www.scorpiobooks.co.nz