



# GARDEN DESIGN

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



## Bonsai Workshop

**Sunday 3 August 9am - 1pm**

Join bonsai artist Aaron Curtis for an in-depth 4-hour workshop experience.

Includes a 2.5L nursery juniper and a high quality ceramic Yixing bonsai pot to take home, plus lots of bonsai knowledge!

**\$185** (\$225 Non-Members)

## Garden Design

**Saturday afternoons 2 August - 13 September**  
Transform your garden into a beautiful and practical outdoor space

Over seven sessions, you'll gain practical skills and design knowledge to create a beautiful and functional garden tailored to your needs. Concludes with a hands-on all-day design workshop. **\$590** (\$655 bundled with a CHS membership - or talk to us about our payment plans).

## Botanical Ceramics

Create a Botanically Inspired Bud Vase, Container or Green Man Tile with Jane McCulla

**Botanical Bud Vases**

**Sunday 24 August 2 - 4pm**

**Botanical Container with Lid**

**Sunday 7 September 2 - 4pm**

**Green Man Tile**

**Sunday 12 October 1 - 3.30pm**

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

## Grow your own Cut Flowers

**Thursday 28 August 6.30 - 8.30pm**

Discover how simple it is to grow a variety of cut flowers from seed and bring home your own sown seeds for your garden.

With Isabelle Weston

**\$45** (\$59 Non-Members)

*Unless noted our workshops are held in The Kiosk, just over the footbridge from the Armagh St carpark in the Botanic Gardens*

# BONSAI WORKSHOP

with Aaron Curtis from Shiro Bonsai

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Bonsai made Simple



## Veggie Seed Raising

**Sunday 14 September 1.30 - 3pm**

Learn to grow healthy vegetable plants from seed with Isabelle & Elizabeth.

Kick-start your gardening journey with our Veggie Seed Raising workshop, perfect for beginners or anyone eager to set aside time to plant their veggie seeds this Spring!

**\$40** (\$45 Non-Members)

## School Holiday Workshops

**Monday 22 & Thursday 25 September**

Our creative workshops include fun activities ranging from fun colourful pasta planters to botanical badges and flower looms!

**\$25 per workshop** (purchase all 4 and receive \$10 off).

## Harakeke Crafting

**Sustainable nature craft**

**Kono (four corner) Basket**

**Sunday 28 September**

10am - 1pm & 1.30pm - 4.30pm

**Sunday 26 October 10am**

-1pm

**Putiputi (Flax Flowers)**

**Sunday 26 October 10am - 1pm**

## Craft a Halloween Themed Scarecrow

**Saturday 18 October 2-4pm**

**Get creative and spooky this Halloween!**

Go solo or make a scarecrow with friends or whanau. At the end of the workshop, you'll leave with a unique, hand crafted scarecrow ready to display in your garden (watch out birds), porch, or anywhere that needs a bit of Halloween magic.

**\$55** per individual / whanau / group  
(\$70 Non-Members)



## GARDEN LIFE JUNE

**Tuesday 3rd 6pm & Wednesday 4th 1pm**

**Main Speaker: Michael Brown**

*Rose Pruning Demonstration*

**Mini Speaker: Mel Haskell**

*New Zealand Gardens Trust*



## GARDEN LIFE JULY

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

**Main Speakers: Stuart Hide - Woodend**

*Nursery (Tuesday) Greg Quinn (Wednesday)*

**chat about Home Orchard Care**

**Mini Speaker: Aaron Curtis Shiro Bonsai**

**Greg Quinn** is a specialist in home orchard care, offering expert pruning, renovation, and pest and disease management for backyard and lifestyle block fruit trees in Waitaha. With years of experience working in commercial and private orchards across NZ, Australia, and the UK, Greg brings a deep understanding of tree health and fruit production.

On the same theme we're delighted to welcome **Stuart Hide** from Woodend Nursery. Woodend Nursery are a valued CHS Sponsor generously offering members a 15% discount. Stuart's comprehensive knowledge will make for a very informative session.

**Aaron Curtis** began his horticultural journey through formal training and a passion for bonsai. Inspired by global masters, he turned this passion into a career, founding Shiro Bonsai and Kusamono Café. His mission: to make bonsai accessible and inspiring. We're thrilled to have Aaron tutor our upcoming Bonsai Workshop.

**The Kiosk**, Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
**Free for Members** (\$10 Non-Members)  
Tea, coffee and baking *afternoon*  
Wine & nibbles *evening*



Book our courses and workshops online!

# June in the Garden

## Tasks for the first frosts

As the Christchurch weather turns colder and the first frosts begin to settle in, we find ourselves well and truly into late Autumn and edging into Winter. The crisp mornings and shorter days mean it's time to switch gears in the garden. With fewer opportunities to work outside, it's a good idea to make the most of those clear, fine days when they arrive.

### What to Focus on this Month:

#### 1. General Clean-up & Pruning

Now's the time to tidy up garden beds—remove old annuals, fallen leaves, and dead growth. Fruit trees and roses can be pruned over the Winter months, but make sure to wait until they are fully dormant. Clean, sharp tools are essential to avoid damaging branches and to promote faster healing.

#### 2. Tool Maintenance

Speaking of tools, use the quieter garden time to clean and sharpen secateurs, loppers, spades, and any other equipment that worked hard over Summer. Lawnmowers should be serviced too—so you're ready for the Spring growth flush.

#### 3. Compost Management

If you've been gathering up those beautiful fallen leaves, don't forget to turn your compost heap regularly. Mixing in green material such as vegetable scraps or fresh grass clippings will help balance the carbon-rich leaves and speed decomposition.

#### 4. Greenhouse Jobs

Winter is a good time to give your greenhouse a fresh start. Remove any shade cloths or spent crops, wash down interior surfaces, and scrub away moss and grime. Finish with a disinfectant wash to reduce the risk of pests or disease overwintering.

### Winter Planting and Preparation

#### Prepare For:

- New fruit trees arriving in nurseries over Winter. Get your planting sites ready by digging over the soil and incorporating compost or aged manure.
- Browse plant and seed catalogues from specialist nurseries. Now is the perfect time to plan ahead, especially if you're looking for more unusual varieties not available in standard garden centres.

### Plant Now:

- Garlic and broad beans can be sown now—they'll thrive in the cooler months.
- Spring-flowering plants such as pansies, polyanthus, poppies, and lilies can also go in the ground.
- Strawberry plants should be planted now to establish a good root system before Spring. Look out for day-neutral varieties for extended harvests

## Friends of the Canterbury Museum

**Tuesday 17 June 10am (Speaker 10.15am)**  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

### Paul Scofield - Senior Curator Natural History What was New Zealand like 16 million years ago?

Paul's research is primarily with NZ prehistoric and avian palaeontology. He will summarise findings from St Bathans fossil site and others, and show a surprising picture or two! Free, *Visitors welcome*.

## Bot Tots June

**Mondays 10 - 11.30am (term time only)**  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

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

**2 June** King's Birthday - no session  
**9 June** Paper Roll Octopus on a string  
**16 June** Matariki theme - star play dough  
**23 June** Pine cone Bird Feeders  
[Bot Tots Facebook page](#)

## Avon Bonsai Society Events!

### Bonsai Events at Avebury House

**Saturday 7 June: Demo: 10.30am - 12.30pm**

**Workshop 1: 12.30 - 3.45pm**

**Sunday 8 June: Workshop 2: 10 - 11.45am**

*Workshops are tutored by Sean Heseltine in small groups with individual guidance.*

**Costs: Demo: FREE Workshops: \$50**  
(\$90 Non-Members\*)

Register by emailing [avonbonsaisociety1@gmail.com](mailto:avonbonsaisociety1@gmail.com) with your preference.

*\*Includes one year ABS membership*

## Chrysanthemum Group

**Saturday 19 July 1pm**  
**Annual General Meeting**

Location to be advised

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)

## Chrysanthemum Show Highlights

Delighted to share these beautiful blooms from the Chrysanthemum Show in April.



*Image Top Right:*

### Top Table & Champion Blooms

**Top: John Rowe Supreme**

Exhibited by David & Robyn Purcell

**Middle: Pauline White**

Exhibited by Charlotte Robb

**Grace Stoakes** Exhibited by Michael Coulter

**Bottom: Primrose Kath Stevenson**

Exhibited by Ian Satterthwaite

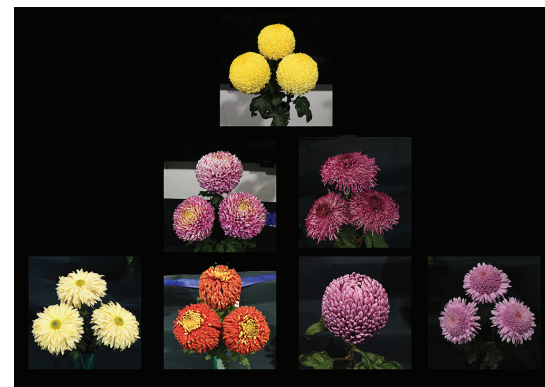
**Xena Noelle** Exhibited by Stuart Bryne

**Stockton** Exhibited by Albert Peattie

**First Light** Exhibited by Brian Glassey.

*Congratulations to all the exhibitors and thank-you for sharing your blooms with the public.*

Do you have a favourite? If you're interested in finding out more about Chrysanthemums contact Robyn from the Chrysanthemum Group (details on following page)





## 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!

**Thursday 19 June 6 - 8pm**  
Smoke 'n' Barrel, 616 Ferry Rd, Woolston

**Cheryl Doig Voices for Tomorrow**  
*Activating future generations conversations*

Learn how the UN Declaration for Future Generations is reshaping global conversations about intergenerational well-being. Discover what this powerful declaration means for Aotearoa and how it's sparking new ways of thinking about leadership, equity, and sustainability in our local context of Ōtautahi Christchurch.  
Networking & Mingling: 6 - 6.30pm  
Cheryl's Talk: 6:30 - 7pm  
Discussion & Networking: 7 - 8pm



## Floral Design

**Recess over Winter**

## Fruit & Vegetable Group

**Recess until August**

## Watercolour Painting

**Wednesday 11 & 25 June 10am**  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

## Friends of the Gardens

Guided Walks in the CBG are now paused for Winter. The next scheduled walks are at **Mona Vale** on **Saturday 13 & 27 September** at 1.30pm (90 mins).

**Talks with the Friends in the Kiosk**  
\$5 CHS Members (\$10 Non-Members)

**Friday 27 June 10.30am**  
**Ava Johnson** from Canterbury University will talk about the impact of cities and urbanisation on pollinators.

**Friday 18 July 10.30am**  
**Tony Bywater**, President of the Christchurch Bonsai Society, will give an introduction to the horticulture and art of bonsai.

## Plant Stall - Winter Closure

The Friends plant stall will be closed for the following period for Winter break.

Closed from: **Tuesday 3 June**  
Re-opening: **Saturday 26 July**

## Working Bee

**CHS Avebury Climate Resilient Garden**  
**Sunday 8 June 10am - 12pm**  
Help with bark chipping, pruning and weeding. Bring along your own gloves and hand tools; we'll provide wheelbarrows, spades, and forks. Meet fellow experienced gardeners and enjoy a shared morning tea.

Weather forecast questionable? For any last-minute updates, shoot us a text on **021 056 7712** or reach out to Jenny at: [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz)  
[Read more about the project online](#)

## Canterbury Rose Society

**Free Rose Pruning Demonstrations**  
**Saturday 7 June 10.30am**  
Corner of High and Ashley Streets, Rangiora  
**Saturday 14 June 10.30am**  
Christchurch Botanic Gardens Rose Garden  
Learn from Members of the Canterbury Rose Society, all welcome  
Visit the Rose Society's [facebook page](#)

## Donation

Last month, we received a thoughtful donation from Virginia Simcock—two charming collector's plates. One is the Royal Horticultural Society Signature Edition "Cherry Blossoms" from 1980, and the other features a beautifully painted, though as yet unidentified, flower. If you recognise it, we'd love your help in naming it! A heartfelt thank you to Virginia for this generous donation.

## Christchurch Peony Club

**Debz Eagle and AGM**  
**Monday 16 June 7 - 8.30pm**, The Kiosk  
Debz will be talking about the art of pressing flowers, and the Just Dirt Trust \$10pp (free for Peony Club Members)  
Visit their [facebook page](#) for more info

## CHS Garden Club Reps

**Wednesday 4 June 10.30am**  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
(Come a little earlier to enjoy morning tea)  
  
The Reps have their 62nd **AGM** this month, along with guest speaker **Debz Eagle**. You are welcome to bring a couple of office bearers from your club to this meeting.

## Plant of the Month

### Meyer Citrus in a Pot

Meyer lemon trees are a popular choice because of their ability to fruit almost continuously throughout the year once established. They are also one of the cold hardiest lemon varieties.

Meyers grow great in pots. To start off with the pot doesn't need to be too big, about twice the size of the original pot. As we are going into Winter, and nights are getting colder and a big pot full of potting mix can hold a lot of water and even though Meyers are cold hardy they don't like wet feet. Don't over water them, they can dry out a bit between watering, especially in Winter.



Meyers in pots need slightly different feeding.

Always use a good quality potting mix. One that is designed for citrus or create your own by mixing equal parts of potting soil, perlite and peat moss. Winter is the perfect time to put layers of mulch around your plant and keep your lemon tree weed free.

Feed your Meyer in Spring and Summer with citrus food for containers and pots. This will encourage maximum fruiting and flowering.

Citrus require high levels of potassium and magnesium. Epsom salts help with yellowing leaves. Prune your lemon trees if you need to for either a desired shape, or to improve air circulation. Avoid pruning in September and October as this is when lemon tree borers lay their eggs in fresh cuts.

Growing Meyer lemon trees in pots also means that they can be moved around. Citrus does not like frost. Although Meyers are more tolerant, they still require protection from prolonged or severe frosts. Move under the eaves of your house, spray with vaporgard, or protect with frost cloth.



**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)

## Garden Life August

**Tuesday 5th 6pm & Wednesday 6th 1pm**

**Main Speaker: Sue Heazlewood**

**Award-winning author, *Tangleby Gardens***

**Sue Heazlewood** has written six cook books including, *A Table at Tangleby* and *Tails of Tangleby 2* which both won 1st place at the Gourmand Best in the World Cookbook Awards. Sue has a passion for cooking, entertaining, gardening and making her home a place of special and happy moments.

*"Cooking, gardening and making my home feel special have always been a big part of my life. Add in six children under the age of six and a love of entertaining, and you can start to imagine just how busy I have been. My children are all adults now and I am a lucky first-time Nana."*

Find out more about her inspiring garden and

get excited for our event in November, *A Taste of Tangleby*.

**Mini Speaker: Steve Bush**  
**Trees for Canterbury**

Steve Bush has been the driving force behind Trees for Canterbury since 1992, transforming it from a small community project into a leading environmental and social enterprise. Under his leadership, the organisation has propagated over 1.1 million native plants and restored more than 100 hectares of native bush across the region.

Steve champions native species such as kahikatea and tī kōuka, and his commitment to sustainability is reflected in the nursery's use of recycled materials and inclusive practices.

He was recognised by the CHS in 2019 with an Outstanding Horticulturalist Award and in the 2020 New Year Honours list with a Queen's Service Medal for his significant contributions to conservation and community engagement in Waitaha.

**The Kiosk**, Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
Armagh Street car park footbridge

**Free for Members** (\$10 Non-Members)

Tea, coffee and baking  
afternoon

Wine & nibbles  
evening

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

### Lighting

Following feedback from last month, we'll have extra lighting set up for our evening session to make sure everyone can arrive and depart safely.

## Green Thumbs

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 9th June** we'll be chatting with **Ben Alder**, Trust Manager for Christchurch Envirohub, about how they work to support environment and sustainability groups and projects around Greater Christchurch. On **Monday 23rd June**, we review the ***New Zealand Chili Handbook*** by Garry Sommerville, and ***Adventures in Backyard Gardening: Inspiring Young Gardeners to Grow Their Own Food*** by Ron Smith.

Listen to Amy and Ray, CHS Green Thumbs, on [Plains Media](#)  
Link available from: [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz)

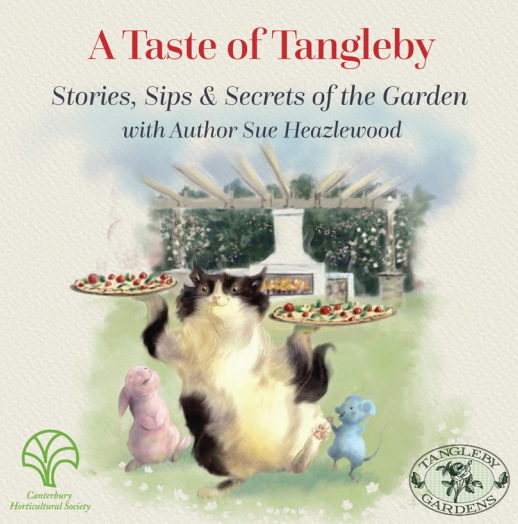
## The Herb Society

**Maori Healing with Aperahama te Aika Kipa**  
**Thursday 26 June 7pm**

**The Herb Society**, Avic Hill Art & Craft  
Centre 395 Memorial Ave Burnside



Aperahama, of Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe and Waitaha descent, will share his knowledge of using indigenous plants (taonga) in traditional Maori healing. He is Kaitiaki of the Kaputahi Hub, the healing arm of the Kahukura Rongoa Maori Charitable Trust which promotes holistic wellbeing through traditional Maori medicine, spiritual cleansing, and massage. Join the Herb Society for this inspiring evening. **\$5 entry.**



## A Taste of Tangleby

**Saturday 22 November 1.30pm**

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

An enchanting afternoon featuring a talk from the author, cooking demonstration and decadent afternoon tea. *from \$95pp*

## From the Manager

I hope you managed to soak up the last of the Autumn sunshine before Winter settles in. As always, time marches on quickly, and here we are looking ahead to the colder months.

We'll be running a lighter programme of workshops in June and July, but behind the scenes, there's plenty going on. Planning is already underway for a range of new events and workshops for Spring and Summer—and yes, we're even starting to look toward 2026!

One event I'm particularly excited about is our upcoming Member's Afternoon, a new gathering designed to bring our community

together over a delicious afternoon tea. Hosted by Gail Scrivener, Neiel Drain, Christine Knight, and myself, it promises to be a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon.

Gail and Christine will start us off at 1pm with a presentation on the 2025 Melbourne Flower Show, along with some highlights from their recent Melbourne Garden Tour (prepare to be inspired!)

We'll then break for refreshments and conversation before Neiel Drain takes the stage to present a "potted history" of some key CHS shows, along with the stories of the passionate people who have helped plan and exhibit over the years.

Watch out for an email invitation soon. For now, make a diary date: **Wednesday 30 July 1pm**. Looking forward to seeing you there!  
**Jenny Cookson, CHS Manager**

