



WORKSHOPS & COURSES COMING UP

Halloween Scarecrow

Saturday 18 October 2-4pm

Get spooky this Halloween!

Create your own scarecrow—solo or with friends and whānau—and take home a hand-crafted character to bring a touch of Halloween magic to your garden or home.

\$55 Solo/Group (\$70 Non-Members)

Healing Herbs with Valmai Becker

Healing Herbs Demonstration

Sunday 2 November 2-4pm at The Kiosk

\$65 (\$85 Non-Members)

Includes tissane to take home.

Herbal Skincare Workshop

Sunday 9 November 10am - 1pm at Phytofarm

Create your own healing salve & lip balm to take home. **\$145 (\$185 Non-Members)**

Botanical Embroidery

Learn the art of hand embroidery – no experience needed!

Join textile artist Sawi Thorpe for a relaxed and inspiring 3-hour workshop exploring the timeless craft of hand embroidery.

Saturday 15 November 2 - 5pm

\$105 (\$135 Non-Members)

Deck the Table

Tuesday 11 November 6.30 - 9pm

A hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to style a beautiful Christmas table using natural elements, layered textures, and a touch of sparkle.

\$45 (\$55 Non-Members)

A Taste of Tangleby

Saturday 22 November 1.30pm

An enchanting afternoon at the beautiful Tangleby Gardens. Featuring a talk from the award-winning author, cooking demonstration and decadent afternoon tea, you're sure to be inspired by Tangleby's captivating Canterbury setting.

\$95 (\$120 Non-Members)

Harakeke Crafting

Sustainable Nature Craft

Kono (four corner) Basket

Sat 29 November: 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Sun 30 November 10am - 1pm

Putiputi (Flax Flowers)

Sunday 30 November 1.30 - 4.30pm

\$40 (\$50 Non-Members)

Fresh Floral Wreaths

Thursday 11 December 10.30am - 1pm &

6.30pm - 9pm

Learn the art of making a stunning Christmas-themed fresh floral wreath. Perfect for adding a personalised touch to your Christmas door, table or gifting to someone special! A glass of bubbles on arrival. A repeat of Isabelle's popular workshop from last year.

\$125 (\$145 Non-Members)

2026

Botanical Photography

Thursday 12 February 6.30-8.30pm

An evening of photography among the flowers with Stacey Weaver.

Explore composition, lighting, and creative techniques; experiment with simple indoor set-ups at The Kiosk before heading outdoors to capture the Botanic Gardens in the glow of golden hour.

\$65 (\$85 Non-Members)

Garden Design

Evenings 17 February - 24 March 6.30-9pm

Concludes with a comprehensive all-day practical session on Sunday 29 March

Join us for an immersive garden design course that will help you see your outdoor space with fresh eyes.

Over seven sessions, you'll gain practical skills and design knowledge to create a beautiful and functional garden tailored to your needs.

\$590 CHS Members or bundle with a CHS

Membership for \$655

First Harvest

Thursday Evenings 6.30-9pm

24 February - 31 March 2026

Want to grow your own food but not sure where to start? This six-week course is designed to build your skills, confidence, and knowledge in growing seasonal vegetables — whether you're working with a backyard, containers, or a small urban plot.

\$245 (\$295 Non-Members)



Book our courses
and workshops
online!

Unless noted our workshops are held in The Kiosk, just over the footbridge from the Armagh St carpark in the Botanic Gardens
[Shop Workshops & Courses](#)

Garden Life October

Tuesday 7th 6pm & Wednesday 8th 1pm

Main Speaker: Paul Hooper – Intelligro

Paul will explore what makes compost truly organic, how potting mixes are made, and practical tips for choosing and using soils, composts, and mixes.

Mini Speaker: Yvette Edwards - Flower arranging with a twist

Garden Life November

Tuesday 4th 6pm & Wednesday 5th 1pm

Main Speaker: Helen Osborne - Te

Whare Waiutu Kate Sheppard House

Museum Where Change Took Root: Kate Sheppard and the Landscape of Suffrage

This talk explores the remarkable life and enduring impact of Kate Sheppard through the lens of her home and garden in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

As Aotearoa New Zealand's leading suffrage campaigner, Sheppard understood the power of persistence, strategy, and community — values still deeply rooted in the place she once called home. Helen Osborne shares insights into Kate's vegetarianism and its influence on the historic garden, as well as the transformation of the house into a public site of memory. The presentation highlights how this space continues to spark conversations about women's rights, political change, and social justice — inviting reflection on how heritage places can serve as powerful reminders of activism, resistance, and the everyday lives that shape history. Helen is the Property Lead for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, managing Te Whare Waiutu Kate Sheppard House Museum.

Mini Speaker: Bear Astill – Midgarden

Discover the world of chilli peppers with Midgarden, a small organic enterprise in Ōtautahi/Christchurch. Founded by Bear Astill and Amy Wilson, it has grown from a lockdown passion into a thriving business specialising in unique, flavourful chilli varieties. Join us to hear their story, learn about sustainable growing, and explore the fiery world of chillies!

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Free for Members (\$10 Non-Members)

Tea, coffee and baking *afternoon*

Wine & nibbles *evening*

Spring Gardening Tips for Christchurch

As spring unfolds in Christchurch, gardeners are experiencing a typical mix of warm and cold weather. With daytime highs ranging from 12-19°C and night-time lows between 4- 8°C, it's essential to stay adaptable and responsive to the changing conditions.

Soil and Planting

While the soil is warming up, it's advisable to wait until temperatures stabilise before planting tender crops like tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers. These plants thrive when night-time temperatures consistently stay above 10°C. In the meantime, focus on preparing your garden beds and sowing cool-season crops such as lettuce, spinach, and peas.

Lawn Care

Lawns are growing rapidly with the warmer temperatures. Mow regularly and avoid letting the grass grow too long to maintain a healthy, green lawn. This is also a good time to treat for broadleaf weeds and moss. After treatment, apply a balanced fertiliser to keep the grass strong and vibrant.

Mulching

As the weather warms, apply a layer of mulch around plants to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds. Mulching is particularly beneficial as daytime temperatures increase and rainfall becomes less frequent.

Spring Bulbs and Perennials

Spring bulbs are in full bloom and will benefit from a fertiliser application to strengthen the bulb for next season. Remove spent flowers promptly to prevent energy loss. Summer perennials can still be divided and replanted. Many summer bulbs and corms are beginning to sprout; some shoots can be used to propagate new plants, such as dahlias and begonias.

Fruit and Vegetable Garden

In the fruit and vegetable garden, start monitoring for pests and diseases. Early intervention is key to preventing major issues later in the season. Most vegetable crops can be sown or planted now, but hold off on planting heat-loving varieties like tomatoes until the weather warms up.

Looking Ahead

Average daytime highs in October are around 16°C, with night-time lows near 6°C. Rainfall is expected to be moderate, with about 47 mm over the month, so plan your watering schedule accordingly. By staying attuned to the weather and adjusting your gardening practices, you can ensure a productive and enjoyable spring gardening season.

Monthly Tips & Tasks from Julian Odering

Thanks to Julian Odering of Oderings Garden Centres for his seasonal insights last month at Garden Life. Julian returns this **7 & 8 October** so bring along your gnarly questions — Julian is here to help.

Potting up the Past

11 October to 27 October 10am to 4pm

Families and garden enthusiasts of all ages are invited to pot up and take home a tray of heirloom seeds during Heritage Festival.

No booking required — just come along to the Kiosk, get your hands dirty, and take home a little bit of the past to grow into the future! **Gold coin koha.** Seeds, generously supplied by Yates NZ.

Bot Tots

Mondays 10 - 11.30am (term time only)

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. (\$2 koha per tamariki).

6 October: Nature Pizzas

13 October: Halloween Ghost Leaves

20 October: Halloween Flying Witches

27 October: Labour Day - no session

[Bot Tots Facebook page](#)

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 8 & 22 October 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

CHS Garden Club Reps

Wednesday 8 October 10.30am

Meet at Mairehau Garden

Invitation: Rep and another member of your club. Entry \$5. Cash please.

Chrysanthemum Group

Saturday 15 November 1.30pm

David and Robyn's, Hornby

Chrysanthemum propagation, potting up and stopping. General cultural notes, preparing soil and potting on. Pests and sprays.

Contact **Robyn Purcell** if you are interested in coming along as a guest or joining this small group of growers. Tel: 942 9871

Email: dandrpurcell@gmail.com

Tea in My Garden

Beginning in December, explore four unique Waitaha (Canterbury) gardens, meet the gardeners, and enjoy a guided tour through their beautiful grounds.



Jenny Cooper: Photo credit: Anna McLeod Photography

Saturday 6 December 10.30am - 12pm

Te Whare Waitutu Kate Sheppard House

Step into the lush and vibrant past at Kate Sheppard House, an enchanting sanctuary where you'll find an intriguing blend of history and garden beauty. Explore the house, wander the gardens, and connect with the legacy Kate Sheppard cultivated.

Price: \$35 (\$45 Non-member) - includes Museum entry. 83 Clyde Road, Ilam

Friday 13 February 10.30am - 12pm

Blue House Amberley

Friday 13 March 10.30am - 12pm

Flaxmere, Waipara

Friday 10 April 10.30am - 12.30pm

Ōhinetahi

Price: \$65 (\$80 Non-member) Includes home-made morning tea served inside the beautiful home of Sir Miles Warren.

Portstone Plant of the Month

Bougainvillea are a tropical-style flowering climber, originally from South Africa. They are known for their brilliant floral displays of bright, papery flowers (colourful bracts) that come in a variety of shades, including red, orange, pink, purple and white.

The best place to grow bougainvillea is in a sheltered frost-free location with full sun. They can be grown as a climbing vine, a shrub or groundcover. As climbers they need support to grow up, such as a fence, wall or trellis. Before planting in the ground, get some organic matter like compost into the soil to improve the health and structure of the plant. If planting in a pot, use a high-quality

potting mix. Water the plant well after planting to help get the roots going. Once established, bougainvillea are dry tolerant and only need occasional deep watering in

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!



Envirokids

Run by the Christchurch Envirohub Trust Envirokids is a fun, year-round programme for kids passionate about the environment. Each week, children can take part in different nature-themed activities, meet others, and learn through hands-on experiences. Sessions often feature guest groups from our wider environmental networks.



See: facebook.com/CHCHEnvirokids

Friends of the Museum

Tuesday 21 October 10 - 11.30am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Frances Husband – Associate Curator Human History, Canterbury Museum.

Celebrating Canterbury Ceramics - this talk highlights the history of Canterbury studio pottery and celebrates the wonderful array of ceramics created by local artists and collected by the Museum over the years.
Free, all welcome

warm weather. They do not like wet feet.

In spring and mid-summer, use a fertiliser high in phosphorus and potassium to promote flowers. Prune after flowering to maintain the shape and encourage more flowers.

Bougainvillea are relatively easy to care for. The flowers are full of a nectar that attracts beneficial insects like butterflies into the garden which helps with the garden's ecosystem. **Portstone Garden Centre** has two varieties available, Scarlet O'Hara, which has a dark red flower, and Magnifica Trailli, which has a purple-red flower.

CHS Members enjoy a 15% discount at Portstone*.
www.portstone.co.nz
**Please note: discounts exclude some items. Full details are available in store.*



Friends of the Gardens

Guided Walks in the CBG resume this month. Walks are **free**, one hour approx.
Starting at the Kiosk 1.30pm.

Wednesday 1 Notable Trees
Thursday 2 General Interest (90 mins)
Friday 3 Curious Conifers – in the Pinetum
Saturday 4 Biggest, smallest, tallest.....
Sunday 5 NZ Gardens – NZ Natives
See the full programme [online](#)

The next scheduled walks are at **Mona Vale** on **Saturday 11 & 25 October** at 1.30pm (90 mins).

Garden Visit – Pegasus Bay Winery
Sunday 19 October 10.30am
Visit Pegasus Bay Winery Gardens in Waipara for a spring tour with creator Chris Donaldson, followed by treats from the Mini Deli (no outside food).

Cost: Food basket available for purchase
Bookings: Limited spaces – email Vicki: vicki_steven2005@yahoo.com.au

The Plant Stall has lots of affordable options for your garden. All plants **\$7ea.**
Pay by cash or eftpos.

Fruit & Vegetable Group

Wednesday 29 October 7pm
36 Nancy Ave, Mairehau

The Group will be meeting next Wednesday at the Community Garden connected to the St Albans Unifying Parish. If the weather is wet, we'll move into the church hall, which will also be used for refreshments.
All welcome

Scorpio Book of the Month

Homegrown Fruit: A Practical Guide
Kath Irvine & Jason Ross
\$58, Paperback

Homegrown Fruit: A Practical Guide is your comprehensive, fruit growing manual.

Kath and Jason take you step by step to create a naturally, healthy orchard that thrives with minimal effort. You'll learn how to choose the right varieties, plan a productive layout, build a living soil, assess tree health, and confidently prune, train, and care for your trees year-round. Real-world examples, sample plans and down-to-earth advice provide simple, practical solutions for gardens of every shape, size and climate. This inspiring, accessible book is perfect for beginners setting up a new orchard, busy people who want homegrown fruit without the fuss, and seasoned growers

Garden Club News

Amberley Garden Club

Established in 1958, the Amberley Garden Club has been at the heart of the community for over 65 years. From the very first meeting, members enjoyed competition tables, plant exchanges, and sales—a tradition that continues today alongside raffles.

Since 1962 the club has proudly run the Flower Tent at the Amberley A & P Show, one of North Canterbury's most popular annual events. Over the years, members have contributed to community activities from ANZAC wreaths to flowers for the Senior Citizens Christmas party, helping to keep local traditions alive.

The club hosts guest speakers, garden trips around Canterbury, and shares the wealth of knowledge of long-standing members.

Meetings are held at the **Amberley Bowling Club**: the second Monday evening (Sep – May) and the second Wednesday afternoon (June–Aug). For more information, visit the Club on [Facebook](#) or email: amberleygardenclub@gmail.com

Christchurch Peony Club

Saturday 25 October 9am
Lincoln/Tai Tapu Peony Tour
Contact the Club for more information
www.facebook.com/groups/957674865337290
chcpeonyclub@gmail.com

Plant & Garden Sale

Saturday 4 October 9am - 12pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Corner
Annuals, perennials, veges, house plants ++



seeking deeper knowledge. Kath and Jason have over 25 years experience designing and managing home orchards in a diversity of environments across Aotearoa. The book's

focus is on creating a healthy setup and choosing well suited varieties. From this solid foundation fruit trees flourish, care is easy, there's a lot less pests and disease and, most importantly, growing is fun!

Thanks to Scorpio Books for this review

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

Garden Life December

Tuesday 2nd 6pm & Wednesday 3rd 1pm

Main Speaker: Angela Clifford

The Food Farm is a small permaculture farm in North Canterbury where everything is grown organically using regenerative methods. As well as running the Food Farm and authoring a book this year, Angela leads Aotearoa's not for profit food movement **Eat New Zealand**, whose mission is to reconnect people with the land and ocean through food.

Mini Speaker: Kate Jordan

President, Wellington Botanical Society

The History of Christchurch Garden Centres, Nurseries and Businesses

Historian Kate Jordan is researching a new book on how the 1960s garden centre revolution transformed plant retailing, she hopes to share her findings and gather members' memories.

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

Spring Fair fundraiser

Saturday 18 October 10-2pm

This year the CHS is running a modest stall at the **Richmond Community Garden and Avebury House Spring Fair**.

We're seeking donations of: Plants (labelled), Gardening/horticulture books, tools, Pots/ planters etc *and anything botanically inspired*

To make life easy (and to avoid our small Kiosk becoming overloaded) we're also looking for Members who would be happy to act as **drop-off points across the city**. If you have a home that has easy access, and some room, then please reach out to Jenny in the office so we can share your details. We will coordinate the uplift of the items - or they can be brought to the fair if you have the capacity to do so.

On the day we're looking for **volunteers to help with the stall** while we show people around the CHS Avebury Climate Resilient Garden. **Email Jenny if you can help:** office@chsgardens.co.nz



Ōtākaro Orchard

Many thanks to Hayley Guglietta for providing a fabulous overview of the Orchard and buildings at last month's Garden Life.

It is worth recording the Canterbury Horticultural Society's (CHS) role in setting this area aside as a community facility.

After the series of earthquakes in Christchurch in 2010 - 2011 the Government stepped in and created the Red Zone and set up the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) which developed a plan for Central Christchurch. Part of the process asked for people and organisations to submit suggestions and proposals for inclusion in the plan. The CHS submitted a proposal to lease land for a new building and demonstration garden.

The proposal was interesting to CERA and discussions were started. To cut a long story short, after considering different sites and options, we and the Food Resilience Network agreed on the site now occupied by Otakaro Orchard.

The CHS was the only incorporated society involved and to secure the site we signed a lease for the site at \$1 per annum.

Discussions continued in the CHS about the building and its design. The main sticking point was going to be the size of the building which would be too small for our regular meetings. We were also convinced that the site was strategic for horticulture in the Garden City.

Once the Food Resilience Network became an incorporated society the CHS signed over the lease to them preserving the site for future generations. The CHS participated in the opening planting of Otakaro Orchard with Ngai Tūāhuriri, The Mayor Leanne Dalziel, Christchurch City Council, Food Resilience Network and others.

Alan Jolliffe, Past CHS President

Green Thumbs

Monday 13 & 27 October

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!).

Listen to Amy and Ray, CHS Green Thumbs, on Plains Media 96.9 or via the [Plains Media Website](#).



Orchards in Schools top: Templeton students pruning trees; Somerfield students showing off their finished work; Redwood students showing where to make pruning cuts.

140 Years of Avebury

Wednesday 29 October 6-7.30pm

Avebury House

Built in the mid-1880s, Avebury House is marking 140 years in 2025. To celebrate, Richmond History Group volunteer David Hollander will give an illustrated talk on the house's history. The 45-minute talk will feature images from the group's collection, followed by questions, a house tour, and light refreshments. \$10pp with proceeds supporting Richmond History Group. Bookings essential: admin@aveburyhouse.co.nz

Avon Bonsai Society

Spring Show - 4 & 5 October 10am - 4pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

See the Avon Bonsai Society's finest trees—from maples to pōhutukawa, kōwhai to larch—displayed as miniatures, cascades, root-over-rock, and more. Vote for your favourite and watch last year's winner judge the show.

Bonsai pots, stands, and companion plants will be on display, and Society members will share tips, answer questions, and provide info on classes and membership. Raffles will also be held. *Free entry - everyone welcome!*

Bonsai Beginners Night

Monday 13 October 7pm

If you loved the Spring Show, come and start your own bonsai! Join us at the Kiosk www.avonbonsai.org.nz