

## 2011 TOURS

8 December Twilight Xmas Tour

## 2012 TOURS

17-24 February CHS Festival of Flowers Garden Tours

7-11 March Ellerslie Garden Tours

17-22 March Wellington, Wairarapa and Waikanae - Garden Riches & Gourmet Delights

April Harvest & Garden Day Tour

July/August Sunshine Coast Getaway

September Wellington Wearable Arts

2-9 October Tempting Tasmania

16-23 October Chatham Experience

24 October Geraldine Day Tour

November North Auckland

To register your interest in the above tours email: [tours@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:tours@chsgardens.co.nz) or phone (03) 366 6937.

Thank you for your support for the tours over the past year. Compliments of the season. *Freda Hunter*

## ELLERSLIE GARDEN TOURS

7-11 MARCH 2012

A selection of half-day and full-day tours

**SMALL CITY GARDENS**

**HIGH COUNTRY GARDENS**

**OHOKA COUNTRY GARDENS**

**WESTLAKE & TAI TAPU GARDENS**

*A new tour exploring large and small gardens*

**HERITAGE HOUSE & GARDENS**

*Step back in time with this charming new tour*

**AKAROA ART & GARDENS**

**OHINETAHI, GOVERNORS BAY**

*CHS Patron Sir Miles Warren opens his newly refurbished property*

Collect your Ellerslie Garden Tour brochure from the CHS office. Bookings can be made online at: [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz) or at the CHS office (eftpos and credit card facilities now available).

## FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

CHS Garden Tours

February 2012

Great Gardens - Ohinetahi & Otahuna  
Half-day tour

South of the City - Broadfields, Rolleston & Ashburton

Full-day tour

more information: [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz)

**Garden Riches & Gourmet Delights**  
Wellington, Wairarapa & Waikanae

**A Tour With a Difference!**

Experience Herbs, High Tea & Outstanding House & Gardens

- 1 night Wellington
- 2 nights Masterton
- 2 nights Palmerston North
- Ruth Pretty High Tea & Cook Shop

**Cost: \$1,445 members (\$1,625 non-members)**  
*Itinerary available now*

## Don't forget!

### CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT TOUR

Thursday 8 December 5.30 - 8.30pm

Gardens, Wine, Nibbles & Santa Prizes

A fun, festive event enjoying hospitality and refreshments in three private gardens.

**\$48 members \$58 non members**  
Tickets: CHS Office tel: (03) 366 6937

## WEST COAST TOUR REPORT

Memories

Although atrocious weather conditions greeted the White Heron tour group in Whataroa, spirits could not be dampened! A quick shuffle of the programme due to river flooding meant we started the tour with the stunning Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers where we were delighted to see



the green orchid in flower. By day two the river had returned to normal levels and we made our way via jet boat and boardwalk to the only breeding place of the White Heron (Kotuku) in New Zealand. The seclusion and peacefulness of the area made viewing the nesting birds a wonder to behold.

Our trip included a visit to Helen Love's beautiful 'Seaforth' garden atop the hill in Hokitika and to Denise and Robin Illingworth's 'Ribblesdale' in Oxford.

Both gardens featured rhododendrons (and weren't they glorious!) and other spring gems. It was a pleasure to visit these two beautiful gardens. The owners are passionate gardeners and wonderful hostesses too.

Laden with plants, whitebait and happy memories we returned to Christchurch. Thank you Freda for another wonderful tour!

*Thank you to Reg Williams for his contribution.*

## ARTICLES ON THE WEB TODAY

Visit the website to read the latest contributions from experts and members. This quarter you can see photos from the Victorian Tea Party & White Heron Tour as well as lots of great ideas for Christmas.



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



*Happy Christmas  
Happy Gardening!*

## From Garden to Table

**FRESH IS BEST** *Linda Ducker*

After a long winter & spring with only insipid tomatoes available in the shops it is with great anticipation that we welcome the new season's crop. What a joy it is to go out into the vegetable garden on a summer's day and pick a warm fresh sun-ripened tomato straight off the vine. The taste is unrivalled and there is no way you could resist having another one.

**If you have never grown and picked a fresh tomato off the vine you have never lived! There is no need to go to a travel agent to buy a ticket for Tuscany to have the good life - it is here in Canterbury all around you.**

In our climate so much can be grown easily, picked fresh from the garden and be on the table within 30 minutes or less. There is so much to look forward to in each season in the vegetable garden.

Compare a freshly dug new potato cooked within half an hour of digging with one from a supermarket that could be 2 or 3 weeks old. It might look the same but the taste is definitely not. Another pleasure is a fresh stick of celery broken off the plant and wonderful to eat whilst walking round the garden.

The first lettuces picked from your garden have superb taste which is far superior to a shop-bought one that has probably been grown hydroponically and may have never seen any soil. The secret to growing great lettuces is the time they take to grow – the faster the time, the sweeter the taste.

Another delight of the summer season is the spring onion. They take up very little room and being able to pick and eat them straight away is quite an experience.

There is still plenty of time to take advantage of growing crops for this season. If you buy the plants, plant out into the garden, with a little blood and bone and compost mixed into the planting hole. Keep well watered, watch the plants grow then pick and eat when they are young. What could be better?

Writing about these amazing vegetables has made my taste buds go wild. As space is limited (and I must go out into the vegetable garden to do some more planting) I will wish you all good growing with many marvellous salads and a Merry Christmas. Remember the magic words 'Fresh is Best'.

### Planting Tips

2cm ↓ deep ↔ bush: 30-90cm apart; vine: 38-45cm apart  
↗ 90cm between rows  
**AVG. YIELD:** bush: 4kg per plant outdoors  
vine: 1.8-4kg per plant outdoors, 2.7-5kg in a greenhouse

## A DRIP A FLOOD OR A GOOD SOAK?

The tap no longer flows with unlimited water to grow green lawns and manicured gardens in Christchurch – our day of water reckoning has arrived. Christchurch water restrictions came into effect on Saturday 8 October, meaning no one is allowed to water outdoors on Mondays and watering our precious gardens can only happen on alternate days – depending on your address.

The infrastructure required to pump water around the city on a peak-demand summer day has been severely damaged by earthquakes, meaning all Christchurch residents need to reduce outdoor water consumption. Mayor Bob Parker says the restrictions are necessary to ensure we can supply Christchurch residents with the indoor water they need as summer approaches.

"I understand that this may feel like another blow following the quakes, but it is a problem that shouldn't come as a surprise to residents. We are renowned for being the garden city, and while we want to retain this image, particularly in summer, we do have to be clever in how we use water this year," he says.

Adapting is becoming second nature to Cantabrians. We've coped with all the seismic challenges and as the city repairs and prepares for the future, this latest challenge is an opportunity to improve our gardening practises – and to support the City Council in its efforts to protect the long term water supply of the region.

### Tips for garden survival this summer

Soak with the hand held hose – take a cup of tea or a glass of wine (depending on the time of day) and ponder the world at large whilst watering.

Fill spare containers and buckets on your allocated days – allow for a life saving water burst when the nor'wester comes through.

Divert your rainwater into storage drums.

Use the grey water from the washing machine – imagine how lush the garden beside the laundry door could be.

Treat outdoor potted plants to a plunge in a bucket of water. Use the same bucket over and recycle any excess in the garden.

Leave a shallow hollow around new seedlings to collect water – this will direct the water to the root zone of the plants.

**Don't forget when to water!** Even numbered properties: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

Odd numbered: Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE *Alan Jolliffe*

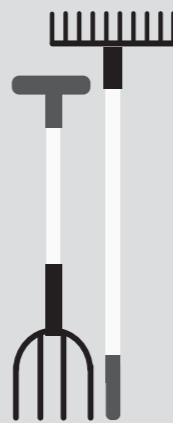
Many times I have written these words, Garden Hygiene, as part of gardening activities, but what does it mean? It is really quite simple; it's a bit like housework in the garden.

Where there is some form of infestation by insects, fungi or bacteria remove infested material, leaves, spent flowers and prunings and dispose of them through the rubbish or if allowed by burning. Only put in the compost if you have a very hot compost heap with temperatures up to 70C. Ensure weeds, which harbour breeding colonies of insects, are removed and replaced with ornamental or edible plants. Clean all garden tools straight after handling infested material to stop infection spreading around the garden.

Do not shift infected soil around the garden or transplant infected plants from one part of the garden to another. If plants are suffering from infestations of pests and diseases maybe the plant should be shifted to a new position better suited to the plant and less suited to the pest or disease but care is suggested and the plant treated to rid the problem.

Give plants a little air by pruning them back and thinning out dense plants. It is in these dense conditions pest and diseases flourish as they find a nice cozy little home to live and multiply in. One example often given is that camellias should be pruned and thinned so that a blackbird can fly through it.

Stop overcrowding of vegetable plants and ornamentals. Experiment with the best distance to plant vegetable plants apart to give the best crop as possible. Keep this up regularly throughout the year. Good garden hygiene is the basis of a healthy garden which in turn leads to lower maintenance and more enjoyment of the garden.



A & P SHOW *Canterbury Horticultural Society*

Putting the A & P into CHS

Canterbury gardeners celebrated 150 years of loving their gardens with attitude and passion at the 149th Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Show November 9 – 11, 2011.

Apples, asparagus, Asiatic lilies and aubergines mixed with paeonies, proteas, parsnips, parsley, peppers, pansies and of course pumpkins creating an urbanscape with sustenance for the body, colour for the eye and food for the soul as nature bloomed supreme.

Layered over green Readylawn, shrubs from Woodend Nurseries, trees from Allwood Nursery, blooms from Lynda Bell Proteas and Downies Flowers and fruit and vegetables from Funky Pumpkin swirled in colour through Patricia Proctor's design, producing our interpretation of loving our gardens through the 150 years of the Canterbury Horticultural Society.

Thanks especially to Annette Hill, Rae King and Lola Turner for contributing plant materials and Phil Ducker for staining the timber surround. To the team on the day of Carole Anderton, Freda Hunter and Patricia Proctor, thank you for your foresight, skills and contributions.



*Shirley Russ, Interim Manager*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

New Era



With our 150th Celebrations coming to a close and looking at our recent 'events calendar' I have to wonder what new and amazing opportunities will present themselves to us in 2012.

The Society is moving into a new era with the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer whose major role will be to implement strategies and to devise operational systems to ensure the efficient, effective and profitable management of the Society. In anticipation of the new order we have upgraded much of the office equipment including computer hardware and software systems and improved the office layout to make our first point of contact friendlier and more accessible.

The milestone of reaching our 150th year has been the catalyst for taking stock of all areas of the organisation and putting in place systems to ensure a strong and vibrant future. Our vision is to be New Zealand's largest and most successful horticultural organisation. To achieve this we aim to share the enjoyment of gardening and to promote excellence in horticulture at all levels of involvement. We are committed to providing high quality and innovative member programmes, diverse educational activities and successful and entertaining fundraising events. We have embarked already upon our commitment to raising the public profile of the organisation with our colourful participation in the A & P Show completing a year conspicuously marked by events and achievements.

In 2007 we "went for Gold" at the Ellerslie International Flower Show. We now have the opportunity for a repeat performance in 2012. But that will depend upon the energy and commitment of all of our volunteers. I am confident we can rise again to the occasion and with the guidance of our Board members achieve even greater successes in the years ahead.

As the holiday season approaches, I want to thank everyone who has helped to shape the Society. I value my relationship with you all and look forward to working even more closely with you in the year ahead. I wish you a very happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with good health, peace and prosperity.

*Ross Beaumont, President*

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

December 2011 & February 2012

DECEMBER *Christmas Spectacular!*

Tuesday 6th 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 7th 9.45 - 11.45am



"In the Garden with Michael Coulter" Timely tips, tasks and questions  
"Canterbury Philharmonia Orchestra" (Tuesday evening only)

"Mystery Auction" Madcap frivolities and furious bidding for surprise packages. Bring Your Money! (Wednesday morning only)

"Colours for Christmas" 'NZ House & Gardens' Chris Wadson inspires with Christmas themes

"Me oh My, Wasn't that a Party!" Freda Hunter takes us on a retrospective look at a year of celebrations for our 150th anniversary.

The special Christmas programme is \$5 members \$9 non-members

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 7th 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 8th 9.45 - 11.45am

"In the Garden with Michael Coulter" Timely tips, tasks and questions  
MINI: "Our Ellerslie Garden"

Ellerslie 2012 garden designer Tony Milne gives a sneak preview of the CHS's entry to this year's important event.

MAXI: "All Things Bright & Beautiful" Rachel Vogan provides an update on plants that are successful in our water restricted summer gardens, and new releases coming soon to garden centres.

All About Gardening is held at the CHS Centre in Hagley Park on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. \$3 members, \$7 non-members. Includes morning tea / supper, tea & coffee

EDUCATION PROGRAMME *New format for 2012!*

For the 2012 year the CHS Education Programme will run as a series of well considered, topical one off events, with invited speakers, educators, enthusiasts and professionals sharing their knowledge and expertise. The programme will be publicised locally and online at: [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz).

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CENTRE NEWS

EFTPOS AVAILABLE  
Members can now enjoy the convenience of Eftpos for purchases at CHS centre.

Subs, Tours, Merchandise and Hire fees can all be paid for electronically.

FROM DIRT TO DINNER

*Mary Duff, admirer & manipulator of the fruits of the earth.*

Liquid Gold

One of my fondest memories is the annual honey extraction event hosted by my paternal Grandfather.

The process started out on the family farm, Dad would collect the hive boxes from the paddock corners and they would sit in the garage for a few weeks. There were always a few confused and angry bees that kept my siblings and I a safe distance from the garage.

In the winter we would take the hives into town where my Grandparent's double garage was magically converted into a small factory complete with a fan heater on full force. All hands were required, even the preschoolers were armed with a teaspoon to carry out chief taste tester duties. I still remember the cracking and popping sound of the honey in the comb as we scooped a generous sliver of it. Straight into the mouth it went with the viscous honey flowing over our tongues. We would chew the firm wax that never seemed to lose its sweet memory.

First task was to shave the protective caps from the comb with a heated knife. The combs were then put in a spinning drum and the honey spun out in fine golden threads. Turning the spinner handle was granted to the most responsible grandchild. A job that was shared because even the toughest grandkid's arm always got tired.

The sticky caps were heated in a labyrinth of stainless steel allowing the honey to flow yet trapping the wax. At the end of the day honey was compiled from all the different collection points into a humongous silver bowl and we would all go home on a sugar high glistening in honey. Over the next few months Granddad would methodically churn the harvest and turn it from a glassy gold liquid to a creamy luminescent spread.

I have tried many honeys around the world but none of them compare to the beautiful flavour from my childhood.

*Mary Duff is a Food Technologist who loves food and gardening. Mary is originally from a beef and cropping farm on the South Canterbury border so perhaps this explains her dirt to dinner fascination.*

HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE?  
Next edition deadline: Friday 27 January 2012  
All material via email to: [info@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:info@chsgardens.co.nz)



**VICTORIAN TEA PARTY**  
*150th Year of Celebration*

Queen Victoria, a formidable sovereign, influenced the world of design, fashion, gardening and travel.

Enriched by the Victorian era, during which the Canterbury Horticultural Society was formed, we celebrated the period with 150 friends and



members at the Victorian Tea Party afternoon.

Fashion of the era sashayed across the carpark with trailing skirts, wide brimmed hats and mutton leg sleeves and swept into the Victorian themed venue. Victorian posies decorated tables, treasured teapots of the era were for viewing and friends mingled in delight to the sounds of the Villa Maria Quartet.

CHS Board member Ruth Bird presented the language of flowers. Flowers, plants and herbs have been used to communicate feelings and represent human sentiments since ancient times. Literature and culture are filled with references to plants and their hidden meanings. Lilies for purity, roses for love, lavender for devotion, violets for faithfulness, next time you give a bouquet check out the flowers you are using - you may discover a hidden message you didn't intend to send.

David Adams entertained with a poem themed on the Language of Flowers before Gillie Deans spoke about Jane Deans, and what it would have been like living as a Victorian

woman in settlers Canterbury.

Patricia Proctor's themed bouquets and clothing took us through the decades from the art nouveau flappers, polka dot fifties, paisley swirls of the seventies and into the future. A pathway of fashion in clothes and flowers showing the



changes from Victoriana to 2011.

The parade of ladies with cake stands announced an afternoon tea of delectable mini sandwiches, cup-cakes and slices. A fitting completion to an afternoon of Victoriana, an era of grace and elegance.

Thank-you to everyone involved in this special event and to all our members and friends who dressed for the occasion with wonderful flair.

**GARDEN CLUB NEWS**  
*Local Happenings*

Avonhead have been entertained by Alan Jolliffe and Yumiko Akashi, who delighted all with her Ikebana designs. Since June **Cashmere** members have visited Kaizuka, Ngaio Marsh house and the Ilam Homestead. They've also assembled over sixty potted mini gardens for sending to the badly affected Eastern suburbs for pre-Xmas cheer.

**CHS Floral Circle** held a very successful cake stall in September. **Diamond Harbour-Purau** enjoyed a visit from Peter Hooper, a local ornithologist and photographer. Club meetings reconvene indoors in May. **Fendalton** members arranged posies and floral containers for distribution to residents of local retirement homes. They also held another successful "Bring and Buy". Their annual Christmas visit to Swan Lake takes place this month.

**Governors Bay** celebrated their 50th anniversary in October with a tour of three gardens followed by lunch at the Governors Bay Hotel. **Ikebana International** held their AGM, their new President is Ellen Loader.

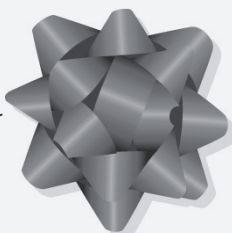
**Lyttelton** members visited David Bell Daffodil Nursery. They also made 33 tussie mussies for the elderly who receive meals from Community House. **Rangiora Garden Club** has visited the Alpine House, Daffodil Woodland, Ribblesdale in Oxford and Baedenbrock in Loburn. **Springston Garden Club** were entertained by Lincoln University Professor, Steve Wrattton (a regular contributor to The Press). Their September display table featured stunning miniature arrangements. **Stratford** held their Spring Luncheon at CHS with members bringing posies from home to be delivered to patients being cared for by community nurses. They also brought photos of themselves as babies!

**St Albans** held their belated AGM in August followed by an Antiques Road Show with Derek Blacker from Portobello Antiques. In September John Fowler gave an informative talk on vegetables with a fabulous display of dishes to taste. **St Martins/Opawa Garden Club** visited Broadfield in October and were impressed by owner David Hobbs amazing eye for design and colour.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA**

Give some-one you love a gift to remember this Christmas.

Membership to the CHS is an affordable and thoughtful gift, perfect for the gardener in the family!



**Single Membership \$30 Double: \$40**

For details and to purchase online visit:  
[www.chsgardens.co.nz/become-a-member](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/become-a-member)

**JUNIOR GARDENERS**

An enthusiastic group of children who meet monthly for practical gardening activities and to learn the science of good gardening.

The group has been led by Dave Rawson and Dave Adams, both former school principals, who really enjoy the interaction with club members. As Dave Rawson is departing to Dunedin in the New Year we need a volunteer to replace him. Maybe you could help?

**The next meeting is Thursday 16th Feb 2012**  
Contact CHS if you are interested in helping.  
Tel: 366 6937 Email: [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz)

CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS

**Summer water restrictions**

As most of you will be well aware, Christchurch gardeners will be coping with water restrictions this summer. Operations Manager, Jeremy Hawker outlines the Botanic Gardens response to the crisis.

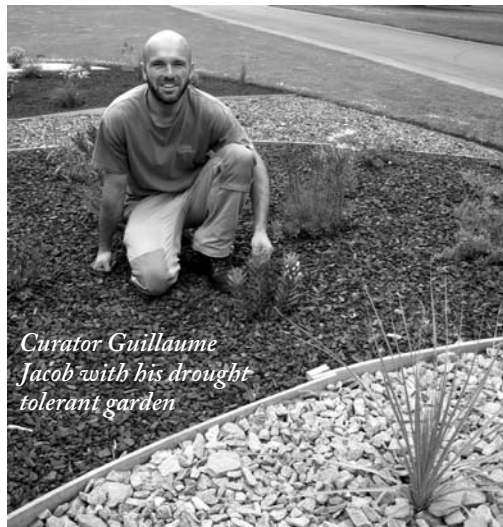
“We are fortunate that the Gardens draws water from its own private well and therefore has no impact on the damaged water supply

infrastructure. However, in support of the restrictions we will only water the Armstrong Lawn as the showcase lawn for visitors. We will leave the rest of the lawns to brown off over summer.”

The borders and rose gardens will be watered at night to ensure a second-generation of new growth and to provide the features visitors and residents expect. The Peacock Fountain will be shut down over summer and run intermittently for maintenance. The Council is also using water drawn from the well in the Gardens to water flower tubs located in the city.

Guillaume Jacob (featured left), one of the Garden’s collection curators, has developed a demonstration bed of drought tolerant plants and related mulches. He is highlighting perennials and shrubs that hark from South Africa, Australia and the Mediterranean. He has also planted a selection of native plants and xerophytes — plants that store water like succulents and aloes. A plant list will be available from the Botanic Gardens Information Centre.

*Christchurch  
Botanic Gardens*



*Curator Guillaume Jacob with his drought tolerant garden*

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**COMING UP**

13 December **The Groynes**

Extensive walks through areas of exotic trees and water.

*Meet 9.30am at carpark by main lake.*

*Please bring something to share for morning tea at the conclusion of the walk.*

14 February **Halswell Quarry Park**

*Meet 9.30am in the carpark*

Walks take place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. For more information visit:

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

**Inquiries:** CHS Office tel: (03) 366 6937

**TIME TO REVEL IN SUMMER GARDENS**

Celebrate the very best in Christchurch gardens this summer with the CHS Summer Garden Awards

*Judging Tuesday 7 February 2012*

*Entries close Wednesday 1 February 2012*

Entry forms: [chsgardens.co.nz/competitions/summer-garden-awards](http://chsgardens.co.nz/competitions/summer-garden-awards)

**SUMMERTIME TIPS**

*From Country Gardens*

Summer has arrived in Canterbury along with its fickle weather, putting pressure on plants to perform. To get the best out of them they need regular watering and feeding to meet the requirements for flowering and fruiting. Planting can be continued for summer flowering colour and trees including fruit trees and shrubs with due care.

Fruit trees are either coming into or already producing their fruit crop so remember to check them for pests and diseases and when required spray to keep these under control. Varieties of trees (many with unfamiliar names) are available that are resistant to many common diseases and often more suitable for the home garden or organic type gardening. These high health varieties can be matched in flavour and appearance to those varieties with familiar names (but less desirable due to rigorous spraying requirements), by experienced nursery staff, to give you the taste and look you want with the added bonus of less spraying. Often the flavour is even better!

Summer pruning is a great way to reduce the size of fruit trees and while there are many varieties that are available on dwarf rootstock, others in particular plums, pears and some peach and nectarine varieties are unavailable on a dwarf rootstock that is reliable.

Especially in the first three years, pruning can be done when growth is several centimetres long with the removal of unwanted shoots. Main shoots that are to be kept can be encouraged to grow where required by using weights and ties. Continue to remove or head back new growth throughout summer to promote the desired shape of the tree. Pruning at the same time as thinning is also strongly recommended.

The apple variety “Tropicana” may be of interest to those after something a little different this year. It has crisp sweet white flesh with bright red skin which often bleeds into the flesh giving it a streaky appearance with a refreshing tropical flavour and aroma. The tree has good health giving properties, withstands disease, and requires little or no spraying (available at Country Gardens).