

all about GARDENING



Canterbury Horticultural Society News No 194 June July August 2013

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Plant Exchange Opens

Greening the Rubble's Colourful Plant Exchange



New Plant Exchange tables at Greening the Rubble's yard ready for installation on site in Barbadoes street. Constructed by Sites Supervisor Jonathan Hall (pictured)

This Autumn, Greening the Rubble opened a temporary service for gardeners, including those in Red Zoned areas who will have to abandon established gardens when they relocate.

The Plant Exchange is about 50 metres north of a popular Book Exchange Cabinet provided on Kilmore/Barbadoes Street corner by Greening the Rubble's sister organisation Gap Filler. Like the Book Exchange, it relies on the interest and honesty of users to bring and take items – ideally on the same visit, so that the stock remains large. The colourful Plant Exchange tables have been built from donated timber and painted with Resene paints by Greening the Rubble's Jonathan Hall and his volunteer helpers. The tables are securely mounted onto the concrete floor-pad of a demolished storeroom.

Donations of surplus vegetable seedlings and potted perennial plants are now invited. "Bare-root plants and cuttings are unlikely to survive, but there will be some spare pots and potting mix available," says Rhys Taylor from Greening the Rubble, who is seeking experienced gardeners as visiting volunteers to help sort, water and label-check the donations. "Labels on the plants that you leave will be very useful to others. If you are not sure, write your best guess onto a piece of wood or plastic and add a question mark! The flower colour and whether the plant from your garden grew well in shade, or sun, drought or wet soils would be useful information, too."

Invasive weeds will not be welcome gifts. To help identify these, the Trust is displaying "Plant Me Instead, Canterbury-Otago edition", an illustrated booklet from Weedbusters, which suggests alternatives to weeds. *See over for details.*

Greening the Rubble Trust is a registered charity managing a dozen temporary mini-parks and gardens which come and go across the city, on vacant ex-commercial sites. It is supported by Christchurch City Council and commercial donors, plus the skills of landscape architects, gardeners and many other volunteers. www.greeningtherubble.org.nz Contact the co-ordinator, Rhys Taylor, on 021 462 260.

\$100 Challenge

Garden Mentors Needed Share your green wisdom today



What is it...?

Hand Over a Hundy is a one year challenge to young families to learn to grow and produce their own vegetable gardens. They are sponsored a hundy (or \$100) to buy seeds and seedlings for their gardens. They are also helped with finding resources from the local community and connecting each family with a mentor.

The challenge for each family is to recoup their money through savings or selling extra produce from their gardens. They then Hand Over a Hundy to a new family at the end of the year.

To find out more you can watch these videos on the web:

How it Works www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rKixoHQp6VU and **Participant Testimonials** www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=F1181rFxn9o

What they need help finding

The focus is on young families in Shirley, Aranui and New Brighton, beginning in June 2013. Families should be: parent(s) under 25 and willing to learn new skills.

Mentors: they desperately need mentors to support these families for 1-2 hours each week, passing on their knowledge and positive energy.

Sponsors and resources: we appreciate every bit of support we can get. Garden tools and organic materials, wheelbarrows, trailers, vans, access to vacant land, we can work with you.

or **Donate to this great initiative:** www.givealittle.co.nz/member/handoverahundy/project/handoverahundy/donate

Contact: Bailey Peryman | 326 6927 | 021 122 7638
Email: handoverahundycheast@gardencity.org.nz
website: www.handoverahundy.co.nz

From The Board

Elizabeth Peacock - President

It is my pleasure to introduce and welcome two newly appointed staff members to the Society. Our new Manager, Tony Kunowski comes to us highly recommended and with great qualifications and experience. He is already proving himself to be an asset to our team.

In the Office, Liz Parder joined us on a temporary basis to help when Helen became too ill to continue. We are delighted that she has agreed to stay on with us for four days a week and with Freda for agreeing to work on the fifth day to keep a presence in the office.

Both Tony and Liz have bright personalities and are already fitting in well with Board, Staff and members. After a difficult time for all it is so good to be settled again in the Office. Every good wish, *Elizabeth Peacock*

Liz Parder

Liz brings excellent administration and people skills to her new role. Her interests include family, gardening, the outdoors and Bridge. Liz is married to Ants Parder they have two adult children, one in Christchurch and one in Melbourne and two grandchildren.

Liz has worked in the building industry for many years and has also worked for several well known retail nurseries.

Some Winter Work

Alan Jolliffe

Take advantage of these cool crisp Winter days to undertake a variety of activities to prepare your garden for Spring and Summer and jump start your enjoyment in Spring.

Treat your garden as an extension of the house, another room or various rooms. People spend time and money on decorating the house for living. The same concept applies to your garden. Keep it tidy; decorate it with nice plants and things to enjoy living

Green Shoots for the Society

Tony Kunowski - Manager

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to contribute to the Society's development in my role as manager. I have arrived after a period of turmoil with changes in the management personnel and more recently the sad passing of the Society's long standing and well-loved administrator Helen Wilson.

My principal focus is to implement the Board's strategic plan which is driven by a desire to have the Society recognised nationally and internationally for leadership and excellence in developing horticultural activities which positively change the way people live, work and play. I see many opportunities for the Society and its members to contribute to the rebuild of Christchurch either directly or by partnering with others in order to restore and hopefully enhance our city's reputation as the Garden City. The Edible Gardens programme initiated by the Shirley/Papanui Community Board is good example of such collaboration. If we could partner with some of the community based organisations such as Greening the Rubble, Life in Vacant Spaces and the Ministry of Awesome we'd also be setting up platforms for increasing our membership base with younger folk thereby increasing the sustainability of the Society. I'm aware that within our current

membership there is a lot of expertise on matters botanical and a lot of desire to contribute on a voluntary basis to appropriate and interesting programmes. Right now however our member database has not captured such information so we are limited in our ability to plan and deliver such programmes. An urgent priority for me is to develop such a database as soon as possible.

One area in which we can make progress immediately is one of the key strategic directions identified by the Board, that of garden tourism. As many of you may know, Tour Manager Freda Hunter tendered her resignation earlier this year, however Freda has agreed to stay on as a tour "Director" in which she will oversee the development of a wide-ranging programme of tours in which the detailed planning and tour leading will be done by other appropriately qualified people. Currently we've formed a small steering group to establish the initial tours programme. If you have any ideas for tours or would like to be considered as tour leader please email me at tony.kunowski@chsgardens.co.nz

Finally I wish to acknowledge and thank Liz Parder who was thrown in the deep end and has worked tirelessly to sort out a backlog of administrative issues to ensure a smooth and efficient operation.

Watch this space. Green shoots are sprouting and yes it's Winter!

in it. Remove unruly plants. Offer unwanted plants to others who may want them - or recycle them at Gap Filler's Plant Exchange. Shift plants around your garden if they are growing too big or are in the wrong place. Transplant them carefully to a new position. Take a trip to the garden centre to purchase new plants or order online. At all times remember the style of garden you have and the style of garden you want to create. Ensure everything is tidy, remove weeds and larger piles of leaves and place in the compost heap.

Birds live in our gardens. While they can fly long distances they are often territorial. With today's smaller gardens birds may live in an area encompassing many gardens.

All creatures need food and shelter over the Winter and this is achieved by growing a variety of trees, shrubs and plants of various heights and densities. This mini ecosystem provides a sheltered environment for insects and birds to live. Other wildlife includes bees, butterflies and native reptiles like skinks. Finally, get a good book on gardening to give you new ideas for your garden.

Plant Me Instead

Many of the weedy species that are invading our natural areas are ornamental plants that have 'jumped the fence' from gardens and gone wild. It costs millions of dollars, and thousands of unpaid hours, to control these weeds each year.

Plant Me Instead booklets profile weeds of greatest concern in your region and give suggestions for locally-sold non-weedy species, both native and non-native, that can be used as replacements. Available free from **Weedbusters** www.weedbusters.org.nz

Garage Sale Success!

The Garage Sale for 2013 was another success with a profit of over \$7,000 achieved for the Society.

Each year as the volunteers gather together to unpack, sort, display, price and sell all the goods so generously donated there is a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie for all those who participate, especially the stall convenors who return each year.

Thank-you all for your enthusiasm, energy and friendship. *Ruth Bird*

Magic Micro Greens Workshop

Come along, taste and plant your very own Micro Green Garden!

9.30am Wednesday 19 June

PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

\$25 per person

Register at the CHS office

Tel: (03) 366 6937

Email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

Winter – “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”.

Peter Worsp - Terra Viva Home & Garden

You may recognise the opening lines from Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities". Or not!

And that's just how Winter can go – a week of grey skies and freezing rain doesn't excite most of us, but who can't feel a thrill at the sight of the snow-covered Alps against a cloudless blue sky. One of my Winter favourites are the bare trees in Hagley Park, silhouetted against clear blue skies.

I'm one of those strange beings who actually likes Winter; Spring is great but Winter generally has less wind and plenty of clear days. And a decent covering of snow up in the mountains has a lot of appeal on days off!

One of the bonuses of early Winter is the foliage colour all around – orange/red/yellow liquidambers, pyracantha or cotoneaster berries, fiery nandinas (especially the Gulfstream variety), even the brown beech foliage that clings on all Winter has its appeal.

And of course pansies and violas are at their best in Winter; I tend to plant violas as they handle the frost better, and we get very hard frosts out our way – another of the bonuses of Winter! Even if the rest of the garden is looking drab, pots of Winter colour in

strategic focal points will cheer everyone up. Polyanthus and pansies will flower better with stronger colours if you give them a bit of Flower Booster (dried blood) once a month. It's also a great product for brassicas, particularly broccoli.

We love Winter at Terra Viva with bulk amounts of new stock coming in regularly – lily bulbs, daphnes and peonies in May, roses in the first half of June, fruit trees and deciduous trees in July, with all the new season's camellias and rhododendrons already in stock now.

Winter gives us a chance to re-assess the garden and colour schemes and plan for Spring planting and new ideas. I always urge gardeners to make notes and label plants during Summer if they need moving (or removing!) in Winter. Once they die down it's so easy to forget what was what, and where they are supposed to be.

While we may miss having lots crunchy beans on the menu, leeks, broccoli, celeriac, parsnips, and Jerusalem artichokes make up for the deficit; remember that celeriac prefers last year's fertiliser levels to avoid a surplus of top foliage growth.

The enthusiasm for growing one's own vegetables hasn't diminished at all and it's so encouraging to see children being passionately involved.

Our home vege garden has three of its raised beds all planted with a Winter crop which we also planted last year with great success; I call it 'growing your own fertiliser' as the green crops fix nitrogen into the soil and the green material quickly breaks down and the organic matter adds to the soil texture.

Last Winter we also put a truckload of compost on our big borders at home and it really paid dividends over the growing season with much improved soil texture, fertility, and aeration. It's essential for all of these reasons to regularly apply, and work into the soil, plenty of compost.

So enjoy the slower pace of Winter (I'm enjoying not having to drag hoses around!), put colour into focal points, and dream of Spring. And remember, even on the worst grey cold wet days, to be grateful for the rain – we need it!

*Terra Viva crn Wairakei Rd & Roydvale Ave
Tel: (03) 358 5565, www.terraviva.co.nz*

BGANZ

The Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc

Networks are important for institutions to be involved with, and the Christchurch Botanic Gardens are members of several professional organisations. The Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc (BGANZ) is the principal body representing the interests of botanic gardens in Australia and New Zealand.

The aims of BGANZ include:

- Providing a forum for information

exchange and coordinated planning;

- Fostering best-practice standards
- Advocating for the interests of Australian and NZ botanic gardens;
- Providing policy and legislative advice
- Advocating plant conservation, fostering plant sciences and social and cultural heritage programs
- Building and maintaining links with relevant national/international bodies.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

In October Dunedin Botanic Gardens is host for both the BGANZ and the Botanic Gardens Conservation International, BGCI world congress, with topics from sustainability and climate change, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and plant collections management, to community wellbeing, social relevance, industry innovation and education. www.5gbgc.com

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Friend us on Facebook

Thanks to all the members following us on facebook. We now have an official Facebook organisation page which you can find here:

[facebook.com/pages/
Canterbury-Horticultural-Society/
535525916477171](https://facebook.com/pages/Canterbury-Horticultural-Society/535525916477171)

Please note - the old page is now closed so remember to "like us" at our new address and keep up to date with all the Society's goings on.



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All About Gardening

June

Tuesday 4 June 7.00pm-9pm
Wednesday 5 June 9.45-11.45am

7.00pm / 9.45am

In the Garden: Tips & Tasks with Michael Coulter

7.20 pm / 10.05am

From Your Gardens & Question Time

7.30pm / 10.15am

Planning for Spring with Oderings

7.50 pm / 10.35am

Morning Tea/Supper

8.15pm / 11.00am

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens – the first 200 Years. As our beloved gardens celebrate their 150th anniversary, Curator Dr John Clemens talks about their past successes, current progress and plans for the future.

8.55pm / 11.40am **Raffles**

9.00pm / 11.45am **Meeting ends**

*All About Gardening is held at the CHS Centre
57 Riccarton Ave, Hagley Park South
Members: \$5.00 / non-members: \$10.00
Tea, coffee and refreshments included*

July

Tuesday 2 July 7.00pm-9pm
Wednesday 3 July 9.45-11.45am

7.00pm / 9.45am

In the Garden: Tips & Tasks with Michael Coulter

7.20 pm / 10.05am

From Your Gardens & Question Time

7.30pm / 10.15am

Sharpen Up!

Geoff McKay from Geoff's Mobile Sharpening will share a few tips on how to care for your gardening tools. He will also have his mobile sharpening van on site. *Bring your tools/knives (wrapped in a towel), write your name on the blade and hand them in to be sharpened. Cost is from \$6 per item. Cash or direct banking only please.*

7.50 pm / 10.35am

Morning Tea/Supper

8.15pm / 11.00am

Winter - it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

Peter Worsp of Terra Viva shares his thoughts on the season.

8.55pm / 11.40am **Raffles**

9.00pm / 11.45am **Meeting ends**

August

Tuesday 6 August 7.00pm-9pm
Wednesday 7 August 9.45-11.45am

7.00pm / 9.45am

In the Garden: Tips & Tasks with Michael Coulter

7.20 pm / 10.05am

From Your Gardens & Question Time

7.30pm / 10.15am

News & Tips - Chrysanthemum Circle

7.50 pm / 10.35am

Morning Tea/Supper

8.15pm / 11.00am

Garden Photography

Many of the envy-making photographs of New Zealand gardens we see in glossy magazines are the work of acclaimed local photographer Juliet Nicholas. She shares the story of her career as a garden photographer, illustrated with some of her favourite gardens both here and overseas, and has some tips for aspiring garden photographers.

8.55pm / 11.40am **Raffles**

9.00pm / 11.45am **Meeting ends**

Ramblers

Getting to Know you City



The Ramblers is a social group who enjoy finding new areas of beauty in and around Christchurch. Walks are free, last about an hour, and always include something of a horticultural or historical interest.

Walks take place on the **second and fourth Tuesday of every month** with cancellations on Newstalk ZB.

June 11 Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Meet in Riccarton Ave carpark

June 25 St. Peter's Church
Meet by park in English Street

July 9 Heathcote riverside walk
Meet in parking area opposite Princess Margaret Hospital.

July 23 Burwood Forest
Meet in Waitakiri Drive car park.

August 13 Millbrook Res & Little Hagley
Meet at Helmores Ln entry to Millbrook Res.

August 27 Belfast
Meet in Bowling Club car park on Main North Road, just north of school.

Mid Winter Luncheon

Toast the Roast!



Wednesday 17 July 2013
Templin Hall, CHS Centre

A Selection of Warming Winter Fare
Guest Speaker, Professor Steve Wratten
Professor of Ecology, Lincoln University

Tickets: \$30 per person

Available from the CHS Office, 57 Riccarton Ave
Tel: (03) 366 6937 email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

Guest Speaker Steve Wratten

*BSc(Hons), MA, PhD,
DSc DSc (honoris causa), FRSNZ*

Steve Wratten began his career as a lecturer in Zoology at the London University in 1971. He held many prestigious positions across the UK before taking up the post of Professor of Ecology at Lincoln University in 1996.

He runs a research group comprising four post-doctoral scientists and eight PhD students, and is also award-winning teacher of undergraduate students. He runs a six-year research programme on biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable agriculture.

Many of the post-doctoral and PhD research projects in the group concern the ecological basis of biological control, especially conservation biological control of insect pests and diseases.

Education & Events

Barnett Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 25 September 2013

The M J Barnett Memorial Lecture is conducted by the Canterbury Horticultural Society in honour of the memory of the late Mr M J Barnett, Director of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens for over 30 years.

This year we are delighted to announce Dr Harold Koopowitz will be joining us to present "Plant Hunting Around the World."

Dr Koopowitz is professor emeritus of ecology at the University of California at Irvine. Before that he was the director of the

University of California at Irvine Arboretum for twenty years. He has long-standing interests in the hybridization of a variety of specialist plants, has travelled extensively to study orchids in the wild and is passionate in his study of endangered plants. In 2003 he was awarded the Herbert Medal, the highest honour the International Bulb Society can bestow upon a person for meritorious achievement in advancing the knowledge of bulbous plants. Dr Koopowitz is currently

editor-in-chief for the Orchid Digest. He resides in Santa Ana, California.

During his lecture he will discuss his adventures across the globe searching for a wide variety of rare and wild species; ranging from *Streptocarpus* in Africa, *Narcissus* in Iberia to *Phragmipedium* (slipper orchids) in Peru and a visit to a nature park to find Asian slippers (*Paphiopedilum*) and other orchids in Thailand.

Tickets: \$25
\$20 early bird purchases
before 25 August

Edible Garden Awards 2013

Congratulations Gardeners!

The Edible Garden Awards were celebrated on the 16th May at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre. The friendly, low-key event acknowledged the many nominees, all of whom received a certificate recognising their participation and dedication to edible gardening. A special certificate was made to those who received Best in Category.

Our congratulations to the following:

Dale and Eileen Donaghey

Residential House

James Cumming / William Cochrane

Residential Unit

Ouruhia Model School

School

Packe Street Park & Community Garden

Community

Full listing available online:

www.chsgardens.co.nz



A partnership between the Canterbury Horticultural Society and the Christchurch City Council. Celebrating local communities who are passionate about their gardens and harvest.



Chris Mene, Chair of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board presents award to pupils of Glenmoor Primary School at the Edible Garden Award evening, Thursday 16 May 2013.

Junior Gardeners

A gardening programme for young people aged between 8 and 14 years

Meeting every third Thursday of the month from 3:45pm to 5pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre

Thursday 20 June

Thursday 18 July

Thursday 15 August

For more information contact David Adams – tel: 342 6236

7pm Wed 12 June

A Night of Fun & Frivolity!

Enter in teams or make up a team on the night. Entry forms available

from the CHS Office. It is said that you use 680Kj of energy when you laugh for 15 minutes. You stand to use 1300Kj on the night! Which Team, Club or Society can topple the current Champions?

Quiz Night!

12 June

Entries Close on the night \$20 for a team, \$5 per person

PC Browne Room, Canterbury Horticultural Centre

57 Riccarton Ave, South Hagley Park. Register your team at the CHS office (advance registrations encouraged so that we can arrange for catering)

Helen Wilson

Remembered Fondly

Helen... Mother, sister, friend, walker, CHS Administrator.

Earlier this year Helen agreed to take on the role of Administrator/Manager to help by filling the gap until our new Manager was appointed. As our only full time staff member for so many years, she became the face of the Society.



Helen Wilson, fondly remembered and missed by staff and members of the Canterbury Horticultural Society

Helen was not only efficient and intelligent, but capable, well-read, obliging, kind, private, independent and loved talking to people.

Even though she had strong opinions which she seldom changed, she was particularly good at pouring oil on troubled water, especially when it came to the thorny subject of parking for All About Gardening. She would always encourage people to get over their problems by saying don't dwell on them but move on.

She often went that extra mile, moving furniture around and carrying heavy loads to help others less able than herself, often staying on until she had finished a job to her satisfaction. She was generous with both her time and energy which was always appreciated.

She had an amazing ability to pick people's voices on the phone, a feat much appreciated, particularly by the Garden Club members.

While working for the CHS, and with teenage boys to deal with at home, Helen returned to the University of Canterbury to gain an accounting degree. It was a testament to her intelligence, energy and determination.

While I am sure there is much more to be said about the life of this complex lady, such an integral member of our Society, I know that Helen would like me to pass on her thanks to the friends who helped her so much in the latter stages of her illness. In particular, Rowena O'Carroll, Freda Hunter, Ruth Bird, Jan McFedries and Annette Hill... your help meant a great deal to her.

For a person who felt she had few friends, she would have been very humbled by the number who paid tribute at her recent memorial service.

Thank you Helen for all you have done for the CHS throughout those many years and the multitude of memories you leave.

Elizabeth Peacock, *President*

The way you receive your Newsletter is changing

A message from The Board

Communicating regularly with members is a key and vital element of the Society's operations. The main vehicle for such communication has been the quarterly newsletter distributed to members by NZ post.

For a number of reasons including cost, timeliness, and changing preferences the Board has decided to begin the transition to a digital system – just as our TV service has changed recently from analogue to digital. The changes will not, however, be as abrupt.

The Board recognises that many members do not have access to computers or do not wish to receive information via email or web, and so a printed version of the newsletter will remain for the foreseeable future but it will be produced on a monthly rather than quarterly basis. This newsletter will be the last in a quarterly format.

The monthly newsletter will start in September this year and to receive it members will have the following options:

- Delivery by email
- Pick up from the CHS office
- Delivery by post but on a quarterly basis only
(members choosing this option would receive the September, October and November issues in November)

We need your help right now to determine which option you prefer.

1. If you prefer delivery by email please send an email to this effect to office@chsgardens.co.nz stating clearly the email address you wish to use.
2. If you are happy to **pick up the newsletter from the CHS office** then you don't need to do anything at this stage, just come in and get your first copy at the beginning of September and every month thereafter.
3. If you prefer delivery by post then please ring Liz Parder on **tel: 366 6937** and advise her accordingly with your current mailing address and postcode.

The Board recognises that members who select the third delivery option above will be receiving newsletters that are up to two months old. While this is regrettable we hope that such members will accept this as an inescapable factor in the transition of our communication process towards an online system.