



Changing the Society's Direction

Tony Kunowski, CHS Manager

Standing still is not an option in today's fast moving world and the Society is no exception to this reality. Ever since the end of World War 2 the pace of change in our lives has increased dramatically and all institutions – public, private and not-for-profits - have had to develop strategies in order to survive and hopefully prosper.

The management of change has become a discipline in its own right and many gurus have emerged in this rapidly developing field. At this point I can imagine many members sighing and citing the French phrase "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" which translates as "the more things change the more they stay the same". If only this were true.

Leading change guru John Kotter developed an 8 step model to lead change. Step 1 is to "create a sense of urgency". I suspect we have the luxury of a little more time. Step 3 is "create a vision" followed by Step 4 which is "communicate the vision" so over the next few months I'll be doing exactly this. In doing so I must emphasise that the vision and supporting strategies have been developed and adopted by the CHS Board with a huge input from our vice-President Alan Jolliffe.

First the vision: To be recognised nationally and internationally for leadership and excellence in developing horticultural activities which positively change the way people live, work and play.

Then the mission, our "raison d'être": To promote the enjoyment and excellence in horticulture at all levels through quality and innovative member programmes, education and events.

Five generic strategies will enable us to achieve the above statements of intent:-

- Digital Communications
- Interactive Horticulture
- Demonstration Gardens
- Garden Tourism
- Building and Property

If I had to summarise as succinctly as possible what the underlying ethos of our strategic direction is it would be "moving from talking about gardening to doing it". Maybe we should run a competition for members to identify an appropriate slogan similar to Nike's "just do it"?

As an example of strategy one, this newsletter is now monthly and delivered to around 300 members by email!

From the President

By now the Festival of Flowers and Ellerslie are over for another year.

Sincere thanks and congratulations to all the CHS member volunteers who helped with both Events. The Garden Clubs who put together ReinCARnation in the Square must be delighted with the Public's response, while many requests have been made for the Chalice Garden to become a permanent feature.

The disruption caused by the construction on the Cricket Oval is not going to disappear any time soon, so please be patient and allow extra time in case parking is difficult. Be assured we are doing all we can to find a solution not too far away.

Spare a thought for our Staff who have to work through all the noise and dust. The Building will be cleaned when work is completed.

Happy Gardening,

Elizabeth

From the Manager

In 1986 I visited my late father's homeland Poland for the first time staying with my uncle, aunt and cousins in a small apartment in a block my uncle had designed as chief architect for the city of Torun. Poland was still overtly communist as part of the soon-to-disintegrate USSR.

One morning I arose early and learned that my aunt had already gone to town to buy bread before it sold out. Despite such market absurdities my relatives ate reasonably well, supplemented by wild mushrooms and berries and an array of vegetables – potatoes, onions, green and red cabbage, cucumber etc grown by my uncle on a minute allotment which I thought was a uniquely British practice.

As more people now live in homes with none or very small garden areas there is a wonderful opportunity for the Society to take a lead role in educating folk about intensive horticulture for home consumption.

Tony Kunowski

Calendar of Events

CHS RAMBLERS

Tue 11 Mar 9.30am **McLeans Island**
Meet in car park just past entrance to Golf Club

Tue 25 Mar 9.30am

Spreydon Domain

Meet Domain Tce, Spreydon

CHS AFFILIATES

Orchid Society

Mon 3 Mar 6.30pm Watling Room

Daffodil Circle

Mon 10 Mar 7.30pm Watling Room

Begonia Circle

Wed 12 Mar 7.30pm PC Browne Room

Chrysanthemum Circle

Mon 17 Mar 7.30pm Watling Room

Canterbury Rose Society

Tue 18 Mar 7.30pm PC Browne Room

Floral Art Circle

Thu 20 Mar 1.30pm PC Browne Room

Fuchsia Circle

Mon 24 Mar 7.30pm Watling Room

Garden Club Reps Meeting

Tue 1 Apr 10am PC Browne Room

Orchid Society

Mon 7 Apr 6.30pm Watling Room

Garage Sale

Saturday 5 April 2014

8.30am – 12.30pm

Canterbury Horticultural Centre
57 Riccarton Avenue
South Hagley Park

SORT & SAVE NOW!

- Cakes & Produce
- White Elephant
- Garden Products & Plants Galore
- Manchester
- Clothing
- Toys
- Sausage Sizzle

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

Tuesday 4 March 7pm

Wednesday 5 March 9.45am

Plant of the Month

Mother of Herbs (Plectranthus amboinicus)

Common Names: Indian borage, Spanish thyme or Cuban oregano.

This is an exciting new herb to add to our already extensive range and is used in traditional Indian medicine for its soporific qualities among other things. If you have trouble sleeping try adding one leaf to a cup of boiling water and drink it before going to bed. This unusual herb loves well-drained soil in either full sun or part-shade, but it is a little tender in the cold temperatures (it will grow happily inside). Pinch out leaves on the growth tips to maintain a compact shape; this should be easy as you harvest it for your cooking and teas. Available in store or online at www.oderings.co.nz



Plot to Pot

Rhubarb & Strawberry Flan

Ingredients

250 gm chopped strawberries

250 gm chopped rhubarb

3/4 C sugar

3 Tbsp cornflour

Short crust pastry

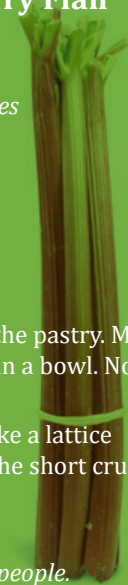
Preheat the oven to 180C.

Line a flan dish with 3/4 of the pastry. Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. No pre cooking is required.

Place in pastry shell and make a lattice top using the remainder of the short crust pastry.

Bake for 40-50 mins.

Serve hot or cold. Serves 4-6 people.



Quiz Time

What is the National Flower/Plant of these countries?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. New Zealand | 4. Wales |
| 2. Singapore | 5. South Africa |
| 3. Spain | |

Answers online www.chsgardens.co.nz

Top Tasks March

Michael Coulter



March is all about preparing the garden for winter.

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

Time to plant winter veggies like cabbages, cauliflowers and broccoli. Any ground that is going to be vacant you can think about putting a green crop in - lupins, barley and mustard all help to improve the soil structure.

Keep picking tomatoes and removing lower leaves to encourage fruit to ripen.

Fruit Trees - after harvesting apples and pears give them a wee clean up spray before leaves start to fall. This will help to get rid of aphids and spider mite. Most fruit tree sprays available from garden centres are a good mixture and pretty safe.

Lawns

When grass starts to grow and get nice and green give a wee feed with of lawn fertiliser - it's also a good time to spray for broad leaf weeds.

Flower Garden

Keep the water up on plants - the usual story of one good deep watering once a week, especially on trees and shrubs like rhododendrons and camellias which are starting to form their buds for flowering.

It's also time to do a general tidy up in the flower garden, annuals and perennials can have a light trim back to encourage the continuation of flowering through to the end of summer.

Think about preparing any vacant ground for planting things like polyanthus, primulas, pansies and violas. Spring bulbs are starting to come into garden centres and can be planted in pots or in the ground.

Think about some of the perennials too - early summer flowering perennials can be lifted and divided. Keep dead-heading roses and dahlias.

All About Gardening

MARCH 2014

7pm - 9pm **Tue 4 March**

9.45am - 11.45am **Wed 5 March**

Daffodil Circle

It's bulb planting time. Daffodil aficionado Dave Adams will share tips on how ensure we get the best blooms come spring.

Honey Time

David Spice, bee keeper and tutor at CPIT, last year spoke to us last year about bee keeping. This year he's back to demonstrate how to spin honey. There will also be tastings of the precious nectar that's been produced by inner city bees.

Summer Garden Awards will be presented at the Tuesday evening session.



APRIL 2014

7pm - 9pm **Tue 1 April**

9.45am - 11.45am **Wed 2 April**

A special presentation on Lilies

Main Speaker - To be advised

Canterbury Horticultural Centre
57 Riccarton Ave, South Hagley Park
Members: \$5 non-members: \$10

Tea, coffee and refreshments included

Tour with us

Don't Miss Out On!

Misty Mountains & Doubtful Sound Cruise

6 - 12 April 2014

Last few spaces left, **book now!**

Look, Learn & Enjoy Half Day Tour

Details next newsletter

Planning - your interest welcome

Alpine & Pacific Triangle Short Break

Kaikoura & Hanmer Springs

1 - 4 October 2014

Taranaki Rhododendrons Longer Break

6 days October 2014

Norfolk Island Longer Break

7 days November 2014

MISTY MOUNTAINS & Doubtful Sound Cruise

7 Day Tour

6 - 12 April 2014

Highlights: Maple Glen, a spectacular private garden featuring plants and colour of autumn. An unforgettable night cruising the fiord on the Fiordland Navigator overnight cruise with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

Visit our website for full listings or contact tours@chsgardens.co.nz