

A Contemporary Gentleman & A Grand garden



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 207 October 2014

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There is so much to see and learn in this garden. Gardener, Mark Chandler was completing a retaining wall and steps down into the lower valley where a sculpture by Auckland artist Virginia King can be viewed. Another feature was a chequerboard pattern of natives (corokia and coprosma varieties), shaped to give a carpet effect.

Now to the Park! After six years it is taking on a 'contemporary' feel with large swathes of hardy New Zealand native shrubs including Olearia paniculata, Muhlenbeckia astonii, Chinachloa flavescens, Carex buchananii and other grasses. The secret with the use of natives in this situation is to shape and trim. The terracing has created an amphitheatre, setting the scene for even more spectacular artworks.



Miles and his excitement over the new embellishments are evident.

At the conclusion of the visit we came across a beautiful wall inscription in Latin, translated as, "those who plant a garden plant happiness".

While Sir Miles claims "there is still so much yet to do", it is evident this gracious garden brings its founder (and surely all who visit) much happiness indeed.

Sir Miles is pleased to welcome CHS Members to Ohinetahi this year on Tuesday 25 November. This exclusive day trip includes a tour of the house and garden, morning tea and a private bus.

Bookings are open now \$65 per person

At the end of the Park a dynamic new Neil Dawson ('Chalice', 'Ferns', Civic Square Wellington) artwork is about to be installed. This joins another new and bold installation with Timaru bluestone by Doug Neil.

The sculptures are a true passion of Sir



QUIZ TIME JUST PASSING

answers: www.chsgardens.co.nz

1. Sumner to Lyttelton
2. Loburn to Lees Valley
3. Fairlie to Tekapo
4. Culverdon to Waikari
5. Seddon to Blenheim

STRAWBERRIES

Oderings are proud to offer you the commercial strawberry variety for 2014 called Aromas. This strawberry offers consistently large to very large fruit which is red with pale flesh. It has a great flavour with a firm texture. Best of all it is heavy yielding, and is especially suited to the Christchurch climate.

AUTUMN SHOW 2015 Celebrating your harvest

With the *Chrysanthemum Circle* - a massive pumpkin display and competition for grandkids and those who are just kids at heart!

Watch this space and keep a listen out for updates from Michael Coulter.

All About Gardening

November 2014

Tue 4 November 7pm - 9pm

Wed 5 November 9.45am - 11.45am

Presenter: Cynthia Kepple

Garden Awards (Evening session only)

Tips & Tasks with Michael Coulter

From Your Gardens & Question Time

Legionnaire's Disease - what are the risks to gardeners?

Researcher Emma Kenagy reports on the findings of a case-control study of Legionnaires' disease in Canterbury undertaken by the University of Otago and Canterbury DHB last summer.

Morning Tea/Supper

New from Zealanda

Exciting new plants appear in our stores every year but where do they come from? Aaron Blackmore from Zealanda Horticulture, specialist wholesale growers of annuals, houseplants and commercial seedlings talks about new release product, how it is sourced, the trialling process, why the company selects certain varieties and the characteristics they look for in new plants.

Raffles

Ohinetahi Revisited

those who plant a garden plant happiness

An early Spring walk around Ohinetahi with iconic Canterbury architect, Sir Miles Warren gave us a sneak preview of Winter projects completed, and the chance to hear about what's in store for Summer.

The surplus Charteris Bay sandstone from the original homestead has been an inspiration to Sir Miles in the development of the Garden and in particular the Park, for terracing and setting the scene for even more fabulous art installations.

We enjoyed magnificent views of Ohinetahi and its stunning sea backdrop; both the house and garden were impressive, with flowering

camellias, rhododendrons and budding trees full of Spring promise. Of note was the Winter maintenance of pruning. Hedges and topiary were immaculate, kept razor sharp and straight by builder/gardener, Ross Brooker.

The herbaceous border has been refreshed and simplified, but is still dramatic with mass plantings. In this generous garden planting is often in large groups, for example Begonia cordifolia, with large leaves and mauve pink flowers. When the flowers are finished the leaf makes a statement for the rest of the season - right plant, right place.

continued on page four

TOURS



ART IN A GARDEN

With Morning Tea & Gourmet Lunch

Friday 31 October, 9am - 5.30pm

Book now: \$120/\$100 (BYO Lunch)

Art in a Garden is an annual exhibition of New Zealand created art work. Considered the best indoor/outdoor exhibition of its kind in the South Island, "Flaxmere" garden provides an elegant setting for established and emerging artists to display and sell their work. Sculptures sit with pride amidst trees, lawns, ponds and rose gardens while paintings, glassware, jewellery and pottery are exhibited in the restored farm barn gallery.



LOOK & LEARN TOUR

The Iris Garden & Devonshire Tea

Wednesday 12 November 1pm

Book now: \$20; \$5 car pool

SUMMER TOUR

A Day on the Peninsula

Tuesday 27 January 2015

Hinewai Reserve & Fisherman's Bay

Book now: \$85 (BYO Lunch) includes: coach transport, garden entry and afternoon tea

IN THE PLANNING

Melbourne Flower Show 24-29 March 15

WOW Wellington October 2015



OHINETAHI

House & Garden Tour with Sir Miles Warren

Tuesday 25 November, 9am - 1.30pm

Book now: \$65 includes morning tea and coach transport

Recognised as one of the very best gardens in New Zealand, Ohinetahi has a strong structure created from a series of "rooms" including a walled red garden, formal rose garden and large herbaceous border leading to a gazebo.

Registrations & Bookings

CHS Office tel: (03) 366 6937

Email: gail@chsgardens.co.nz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently our Ramblers walk took us along River Road and Banks Avenue. We were all shocked by the devastation that is so obvious there. In the city all is a grey wasteland; here this area is still green and although so many houses are gone, many of the gardens, trees and shrubs remain. Dianna Madgin's isolated house still stands, with a notice telling you there is a Heritage Garden here among the weeds. What struck me most was the happy relationship of mixed natives and exotics growing side by side. This is what our council needs to retain in our new city; a blend of both to maintain a balance, bringing back birds and bees while keeping Christchurch as The Garden City.

Happy gardening....Elizabeth



Family Silver

Part two by *Neiel Drain*

In the August CHS News, I made mention of the various trophies held for specialist flower shows as an indication of certain member's interest in their favourite flower, the most enduringly popular having been the daffodil, rose, dahlia and chrysanthemum and to a lesser extent, gladioli. Following is some information on two trophies of each relating to Daffodils and Chrysanthemums these being the two flower shows (Spring and Autumn) currently being held under the auspices of the CHS.

David Bell Challenge Cup: This cup dating from 1962, was named for David Bell, (now deceased), a highly successful local daffodil grower and hybridiser, with an internationally-renowned daffodil collection, located at his property in Templeton. The quality (and range) of David Bell's daffodils was outstanding, and not surprisingly, he was a regular winner of this cup at the Society's shows. His name appears every year from 1962 to 1983. (He died in 1987). Other regular winners recorded include A W Chappell, for many years a leading daffodil exhibitor and current members Michael and Marian Brown and David Adams, also noted daffodil growers, breeders and exhibitors, and winners of various trophies over a lengthy period.

New Zealand Daffodil Raisers Champion Challenge Cup: Dating from 1959, it is again no surprise to find David Bell a regular winner – 18 occasions over a period of 25 years (to 1983). The knowledge and dedication of our other local growers and hybridisers named above is also evident on this cup, their names appearing several times.

Various other daffodil cups are held by the Society and together with the names already mentioned, are others periodically recorded... Probably the most noteworthy grower and exhibitor of earlier times, was Sir Heaton Rhodes, a well-known public figure, for many years the Society's president and



famous for his very extensive daffodil collection at Otahuna, producing many new cultivars and regularly exhibiting at the Society's shows.

J A Hitchings Challenge Cup: Donated by the CHS Chrysanthemum Circle, and dating from 1960. One name dominates this cup, Leo Clark, whose name appears regularly. He was for many years a well-known chrysanthemum grower, exhibitor and judge, with numerous contacts nationally and around the world, especially in Japan.

Visitors to his Christchurch garden were amazed at the hundreds of potted plants providing massed displays of various forms of chrysanthemum. Needless to say, his extensive displays and exhibition blooms at shows were outstanding, winning many awards. Leo Clark died in 1999.

CHS Challenge Cup for Exhibition Incurved Chrysanthemums: This cup was presented in 1953 by the late J R Templin, former Society president and major benefactor of the Society. Once again, Leo Clark's name is dominant on the cup; however, other chrysanthemum growers/exhibitors are recorded several times including Society members John Patton, David Purcell and Michael Coulter (son-in-law of the late Leo Clark).

As with the daffodil, there are other chrysanthemum trophies and other growers and exhibitors too numerous to mention here. Viewed as a whole, this trophy collection is a record of the persistence, sustained interest and strong competition, often spanning many years that existed and continues to exist, among our various growers and exhibitors. These efforts have resulted in numerous outstanding exhibits and displays, bringing not only great satisfaction to the exhibitors, but also immense pleasure to the wider membership and others visiting the Society's shows.

Highlighting the Garden City image and its importance to Christchurch's heritage

CHS supports the Christchurch Perimeter Trail

The last two issues of the newsletter have explained the background to this innovative and timely project as part of the city's long term recovery. The formal launch day looms large in early November. The CHS has agreed to sponsor the Riccarton Bush to McLean's Island section of the trail. This will involve a cash contribution, mainly for signage, plus voluntary labour from CHS members (hopefully) for the following activities:

Immediately, during October, assistance is needed from able bodied people to affix trail markers to lamp posts.

Establishing habitats of savannah woodland/shrubland at 100-200m intervals along the Ryans/Guy/Conservators roadsides - approx 20 plots, 10m long x 2-3m wide of kowhai, kanuka, cabbage tree, matagouri, Olearia adenocarpa, Coprosma propinqua, totara, broadleaf, prostrate kowhai, porcupine shrub, NZ broom - by working bees to plant and tend the plants. These habitats don't need to be in place by launch date but form part of the trails natural enhancement over time.

Maintaining a watching brief on the condition of the walkway and if necessary reporting to appropriate authorities/groups.

To volunteer please email office@chsgardens.co.nz by **15 October** with your name, home and mobile number and which activities you'd like to support. We will be in touch to advise you of details at the earliest opportunity.

INTERACTIVE HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS

Planning Your Garden with Michael Coulter

Workshop A: Sat 4 Oct, 10am -12pm
Workshop B: Sat 11 Oct, 10am - 12pm

Templin Hall, CHS Centre
Members: \$5, non-members: \$10
Tickets: www.chsgardens.co.nz

SPECIAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

Flax Weaving with Daphne O'Connell
Now a regular monthly event!

Thursday 23 October, 10am -12pm
CHS Centre
All Participants: \$5

Tickets: www.chsgardens.co.nz

SPECIAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

Decorating The Christmas Table
Demonstration & Workshop with Ray King & Freda Hunter

Workshop A: Sat 29 Nov, 10am - 12pm
Workshop B: Wed 10 Dec, 10am - 12pm
Templin Hall, CHS Centre
All participants: \$10

Tickets: www.chsgardens.co.nz

CHS CIRCLES

Begonia Circle
Wed 8 Oct 7.30pm Watling Room

Floral Art Circle
Thu 16 Oct 12pm, Styx and Stones Restaurant, Belfast

Chrysanthemum Circle
Mon 20 Oct 6pm Coulter's Nursery
183 Weston Rd (Pot luck dinner)

Fruit & Vegetable Circle
Wed 29 Oct 7.30pm Watling Room

CHS AFFILIATES

Garden Club Reps Meeting
Tue 7 Oct 10am Oderings, Stourbridge St

Orchid Society
Mon 6 Oct 6.30pm Watling Room

JUNIOR GARDENERS
Thu 16 Oct 3.45pm Watling Room

NEW CHS OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

CHS RAMBLERS

Tue 14 Oct 9.30am Burwood
Meet in walk car park on Lake Terrace Rd opp Lakewood Dr

Tue 28 Oct 9.30am Berryfields
Meet Sweethearts Restaurant 161 Gardeners Rd, Harewood

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

Tue 7 October 7pm
Wed 8 October 9.45am

Michael Coulter's Top Tasks



The month of October is one of the busiest times in the garden. The days are now longer than the nights and along with the higher temperatures plant growth from now on will be very rapid.

FLOWER GARDEN

Keep the water up on daffodils so that they grow well to produce next season's flowers, also treat for bulb fly now.

As flowering shrubs finish flowering now is the time to prune them to encourage growth for next season's flowers.

Mulch around shrubs to suppress the weeds and conserve moisture during the hotter

Summer.

At the end of the month start planting the summer annuals, dahlias, chrysanthemums and other warmer loving perennials.

As shrubs and trees start to grow they will benefit from having a light application of fertiliser.

Watch out for signs of pest and disease on the new growth on plants especially roses, dahlias, chrysanthemums, fuchsias etc. and take control measures as needed.

Remember small seedling weeds are easier to eliminate so on fine warm days get the hoe out and go around the garden.

LAWNS

Rapid growth is now on so the grass needs to be cut at least every week and sometimes more often. Remember to only cut about 1/3 of the

leaf area of the plants.

Do not cut the lawns too low as this encourages weeds and moss to grow in the lawn.

You can now treat the lawn for broadleaf weeds but do not compost or use the clippings around the garden.

With rapid growth grass will need to be fed to keep it nice and green through out the summer so feed now and water in.

Keep the water up on the grass if the weather is dry. It's better not to let the grass get too dry before watering to keep it green.

FRUIT & VEGGIE GARDEN

Successive sowing of green leaf crops every 3 to 4 weeks will give a continuous supply throughout the Summer.

At the end of the month warm loving crops may be planted (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans, sweetcorn, etc.)

Transplant early raised seedlings of the warmer loving plants to give some early harvest (do not plant too many as these early plantings often do not crop as well as later plantings do).

Main crop potatoes can start to be planted now. Mould up the early potatoes as they emerge and watch out for late frosts.

Sow the last of the onions main crop and leeks.

Do not spray fruit trees while they are in flower wait until petal drop is finished then spray (this is the time to get control of brown rot on stone fruit and leaf curl)

Keep the water and fertiliser up on rhubarb and asparagus to get continuous supply.

AGM NEWS

Around 40 members attended this year's AGM held on 4 September. Two new Board members were elected – Rachel Vogan and Aaron Keown. Amendments to the CHS rules were passed to dispense with membership cards, allow the co-option of the immediate past-president to the Board and to change the quorum from 5 to "a majority of currently serving Board members".

Kowhai Awards were presented to Andrew Tainui, Marilyn Henderson, Bob Henderson, Annette Hill and Leonie Jackson in recognition of their valued involvement in a variety of CHS activities. Two new awards were introduced: 'Outstanding Horticulturalist' presented to Michael Coulter, Phil Ducker, Jeremy Hawker, Freda Hunter and Eiji Kawada and the 'John Taylor Award for Leadership in Horticulture', presented to Neiel Drain who accepted it by acknowledging Taylor's tremendous contribution to horticulture in the city.

ODERINGS MEMBERS ONLY NIGHT

Tuesday 14 October 4.30 – 6.30pm

Once again Oderings is generously hosting a special "one off" evening for CHS members where everything except items already discounted will be reduced by 20%.

Stock up on potting compost. Treat yourself or a friend to some new tools, and don't forget the plants. Indoor, outdoor, roses, shrubs, bedding plants, even trees. And there is so much more – boots, shoes, brollies, gift cards, candles. You could get in some early Christmas gifts.

A two hour special at Oderings, Stourbridge Street, Spreydon.

The café will be open until 5.30pm.

Pick up your member ticket from the CHS office or ring Liz on 366 6937 and she will post a ticket to you.

Come and join us!