

# TOURS

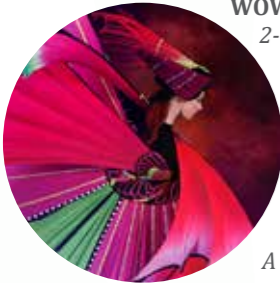
Confirmed 2015 dates now out



# CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society  
Newsletter No 210 February 2015  
e: office@chsgardens.co.nz  
t: (03) 366 6937  
CHS Centre: office hours 9am - 4pm  
www.chsgardens.co.nz  
facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety

## REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW



**WOW Wellington**  
2-4 October 2015

**Look & Learn**  
March-December 2015  
A range of affordable day tours  
around Canterbury

**Norfolk Island**  
25 October - 1 November 2015  
A repeat of this wonderful tour!

## IN THE PLANNING

**Chiang Mai Flower Festival**  
Thailand January 2016

Bookings & Registrations t: 366 6937  
email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

## TARANAKI EXTRAVAGANZA TOUR

**6 Day Longer Break**  
7-13 November 2015

See rhododendrons at their best and explore this beautiful area of the Noth Island with a group of like-minded travellers.  
*Details and costs finalised soon*



## ODERINGS GARDEN CENTRES



Presented by  
Canterbury Horticultural Society

## Oderings School Gardens Show

6-8 March 2015

To date we have received nine entries from the following schools: West Melton Primary, St Albans Catholic, Cathedral Grammar, Aidanfield Christian, Shirley Intermediate, Bishopdale, West Spreydon, and Bromley (2). Ideally we'd like a minimum of 10 schools so if any member can suggest another school even at this late stage we'll follow it up with vigour.

The planning and organising of this inaugural event is being undertaken by the CHS Education Committee chaired by Ray King and is a real team effort involving Annette Hill (School Liaison), Daggi Goeke (Health & Safety), Allan Paterson (Logistics), Rachel Vogan (Convenor of Judges) and Faye Fyfe (Catering). The judging criteria are fourfold:- Wow Factor (30%), Design & Theme (25%), Educational Elements & Age-Appropriate Student Input (30%) and finally Construction, Presentation & Finishing (15%).

Each school will be required to produce a story board to describe their garden theme. This can be written, pictorial, photographic or some mix of these. A planting plan is also required so visitors can identify all the plants used in the exhibit.

## QUIZ TIME

What is the main food source for the larvae of these insects?

1. Monarch butterfly
2. Yellow Admiral butterfly
3. Magpie moth
4. White butterfly
5. Porina moth

answers: www.chsgardens.co.nz

## VISIT THE GARDENS

Why not combine your attendance at this month's All About Gardening with a walk in the Gardens.

If you coming to the evening AAG session you could enjoy a walk followed by supper at the Ilex café before the 7pm start.

A highlight of the Gardens right now is the **Dahlia Border**. Located at the entrance to the Central Rose Garden, this pocket of the Gardens has recently burst into life, with a glorious kaleidoscope of colours on display. They are all so unique and worth a visit!

## AUTUMN SHOW 2015

I hope everyone is looking forward to The Autumn Show at the end of April. Your pumpkins and gourds must be loving the hot weather and as long as you are keeping the water up they should be fruiting really well. My gourds are rampant. I planted 6 seeds in a large pot and they are now loaded with fruit and climbing up through a tree, hopefully they will continue this amazing progress and give me a good crop for the show. We are looking forward to hearing some of your pumpkin and gourd stories at the next All About Gardening meetings at the Botanic Gardens.



## PLOT TO POT Strawberry & Beet Salad

### Ingredients

- 5 small beets (raw, tops removed)
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds
- 400g strawberries
- 100g feta
- Rocket or salad greens
- 100ml balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tbs honey

Boil the beets until they are tender when you stick them with a knife. Let them cool down then remove the skins and cut into quarters.

In a heated pan, roast sunflower seeds until slightly brown. Remove from heat.

While the sunflower seeds are roasting, wash and cut your strawberries in quarters.

Mix the vinegar and honey in a bowl until the honey is completely dissolved. Pour this dressing over the beets, strawberries and greens.

Lastly, add the feta and roasted sunflower seeds to the salad.

serves 4 as a side dish

## ALL ABOUT GARDENING

March 2015

Tuesday 3 March 7pm - 9pm & Wednesday 4 March 9.45am - 11.45am

**Behind the Scenes in the Botanic Gardens.** We are making the most of our change of venue and are asking staff at the Botanic Gardens to give us an insight into what goes on behind the borders. This month we'll hear about The Curators House Gardens which are overflowing with scrumptious fruit, herbs and vegetables all ready to be picked and used by the clever chefs at the Curator's House restaurant, plus Susan Sanders will talk about Dahlias. A great chance to hear from the experts and pick up some professional gardening tips.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please note that both February and March All About Gardening sessions will be held at the new Visitor Centre in the Botanic Gardens. In the morning sessions of 4 February and 4 March the electric shuttle (caterpillar) will be operating to deliver members from the bridge opposite the Tea Kiosk to the Visitor Centre between 9.00am and 9.30am, and returning to the bridge from 11.45am to 12.00pm.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2015.

The Board face many challenges this year as we strive to provide value and excellence in horticulture for our members. There are many hard decisions to be made for the future growth of our Society and we ask for whole-hearted support from you all as we face some very exciting changes, beginning with holding All About Gardening in the new Information Centre in the Botanic Gardens. The easier parking and the provision of transport from the old Tea Kiosk in the morning for those of you with mobility problems should make joining us much easier. We trust you will enjoy the change.

Our March meeting will also be at this venue as our Horticultural team are hosting our Schools Garden Show in the Templin Hall the first week of March. Do come to see what our young people can produce.... it will be an inspiration.

*Cheers, Elizabeth*

## TEMPORARY CENTRE CLOSURE

We wish to advise that due to the Cricket World Cup booking the Canterbury Horticulture Centre will be closed for the month of February.

The CHS office will be functioning as normal and Tony and Liz will be in the office most days between hours 9am to 4pm. However, as security is extremely high gate passes for access to the building will only be issued to members of the staff.

If you wish to pay an account, please do so online listing the invoice number, send a cheque or telephone the office with your credit card details.

If there are any matters that you wish to discuss please telephone the office, if we are busy or out of the office and we don't answer, please leave your name, number and a clear message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

tel: 366 6937 email: office@chsgardens.co.nz



**Weekend Gardener**



**ODERINGS GARDEN CENTRES**

The CHS gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution of its sponsors and supporters which are listed above. The sponsorship categories are as follows: Principal, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Supporter and will be populated as sponsors join the programme. *Details of the programme may be found at www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship*

# Trees for Bees

## Smart planting for healthy bees

### Why Are Bees Important?

Imagine a world without strawberries, kiwifruit, apples, nuts, coffee, chocolate or even denim jeans! And that's only the beginning. One mouthful in three and nearly ¾ of the diversity of our daily food is directly attributed to Bee pollination.

Billions of dollars in NZ export earnings depend on bee pollination. And so do many plants in your garden.

### What Is Happening To Our Bees?

Honey bees all around the world are in decline because of Varroa mite infestations and other threats. Pesticide misuse is killing bees. Habitat degradation takes away flowers which supply nectar and pollen, their essential food. Bees are now dependent on humans to protect them.

### What Can You Do About It? Bee Friendly!

Do not spray when plants are in flower or bees are present. Spray early morning or at sunset.

Provide fresh pesticide-free drinking water for bees.

Plant good nectar and pollen sources in your garden to nourish bees.

### Bee-Friendly Kitchen & Herb Plant Suggestions

- Basil
- Chives
- Cucumber, melon
- Echinacea
- Pot marigold
- Sage
- Squash, pumpkin
- Sunflower
- Sweetcorn

### Trees, shrubs and climbers

- Apple
- Bay laurel
- Kiwifruit
- Lavender
- Lemon, orange, grapefruit
- Pear
- Plum, peach
- Rosemary

Reproduced from 'Urban Trees for Bees', a joint project of the National Beekeepers' Association and Trees for Bees NZ.

For more information visit:  
[www.nba.org.nz](http://www.nba.org.nz) or  
[www.treesforbeesnz.org](http://www.treesforbeesnz.org)

# Member of the Month

## Amanda Clifford



### What's been your most challenging and/or rewarding gardening project?

My most challenging gardening project is my garden at the moment – a little neglected over the last couple of years because of earthquake and other commitments so next year is going to be

dedicated to my garden and getting it back into shape.

### When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined about 18 months ago and joined so that I can learn more about all aspects of gardening from people who are passionate about the subject.

### What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

That the organisation continues and can attract new members from all age ranges.

*Member of the Month is a new component to the CHS newsletter introduced as an opportunity to get to know some of our newer members, as well as our existing members, a little better.*

## JUNIOR GARDENERS

Junior Gardeners meet on the third Thursday of the month. It is an interactive gardening programme where young gardeners learn how plants work, how to identify them and practise the propagation and growing of plants.

The first meeting this year is **Thursday 19 February 3:45 - 5.00pm**. Contact Dave Adams on tel: 3426 236 for venue details.

## NEW JUNIORS NEEDED!

As older children move on we really need **four** new members for this year.

Parents or grandparents usually stay through the session and are valued as part of the interactive nature of the programme.

For more information contact Dave Adams on tel: 342 6236

## CHS CIRCLES

**Daffodil Circle**  
 Mon 9 Feb 7.30pm contact Dave Adams on tel: 342 6236 for venue details.

**Begonia Circle**  
 Sun 22 Feb All Day **Annual Walkabout**  
 no monthly meeting

**Chrysanthemum Circle**  
 Mon 16 Feb 6pm 11 Ruakaka St, Hornby  
 Pot luck dinner, plant viewing and advice

**Fruit & Vegetable Circle**  
 Wed 25 Feb 7.30pm Curators Garden  
 \$5 pp (kitchen garden at back of restaurant)

## CHS CIRCLES

**Floral Art Circle**  
**50th Anniversary Lunch**  
 Thu 19 Feb 12pm, Chateau on the Park  
 Dress in gold for this golden anniversary!

## CHS AFFILIATES

**Garden Club Reps Meeting**  
 Tue 3 Feb 10am Oderings, Stourbridge St

**Orchid Society**  
 Sun 1 Feb 2pm Glass house visit  
 Home of Joyce Yates, Halswell

## CHS RAMBLERS

Tue 10 Feb 9.45am **Halswell Quarry**  
 Meet by old Caretakers Cottage

Tue 24 Feb 9.45am **The Groynes**  
 Meet in carpark by Bridge

Tue 10 Mar 9.45am **Curletts Reserve**  
 Park on Templetons Rd, Aidenfield

**UPDATED TIME for 2015**  
 Walks start at **9.45am** every second and fourth **Tuesday** each month. **FREE**  
 No walk if very wet.

## ALL ABOUT GARDENING

Tue 3 Feb 7pm & Wed 4 Feb 9.45am  
**Behind the Scenes in the Botanic Gardens**  
 This session will be divided into two, with staff member Darren Tillet taking half the members on a conducted tour of the propagation area, while David Barwick will talk about his passion – the intriguing and floriferous herbaceous border. Then the two groups will interchange for the second half of the meeting.  
 Held at the Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre

# Michael Coulter's Top Tasks



February is one of the busy months of the gardeners' year, during this time we are harvesting fruit and vegetables, weeding, watering, Summer pruning fruit trees, dead heading flowers and roses and getting the garden ready for the coming Winter. Tree ripened fruit is for me the real highlight at this time of the year and so far we have enjoyed strawberries, gooseberries and peaches. The vegetable garden is in full production with a big choice of produce available and to keep the quality up I have been giving plenty of water every two days or so as the weather is hot and dry and is predicted to remain like this for the next two to three months.

Keeping the lawns looking nice is a real challenge during Summer so I have let the back grass look after itself and kept the front nice by feeding and watering so that it complements the flowering plants in the surrounding borders.

### FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDEN

After stone fruit is harvested prune them and get a spray on for the leaf curl.

Give apples and pears plenty of water for fruit development and Summer prune to let in more light on the fruit and to shape the tree.

Keep the water up on the vegetables so that they will grow quickly for the best quality.

Hoe the weeds when they are small in the morning to get the best control.

Keep regular plantings of green leafy veges for continuous supply.

Leeks, carrots, silver beet can be sown or planted now for Winter supply.

Tomatoes will need plenty of water, laterals and lower leaves removed to encourage ripening of fruit. Watch out for pests that attack the plants and spray if needed.

Feed and water citrus now.



### LAWNS & FLOWER GARDEN

Keep up the water and feed on the lawns and do not cut too low.

Dead head spent flowers on the annuals, perennials, dahlias and roses to encourage more flowers.

Deep water garden so that plants do not get too stressed in the heat.

Spray plants for thrips and spider mites now to avoid damage to leaves.

Treat grass for grass grub if it is a problem.

Trees and shrubs can be pruned to remove any unwanted growth. Keep the hoe active so that weeds are well controlled (best done in the morning to let the hot sun kill the weeds).

Do preventative sprays on the fruit trees so that pests and diseases are controlled before they can damage the crop.

