



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 215 July 2015
e: office@chsgardens.co.nz
t: (03) 366 6937
CHS Centre: office hours 9am - 4pm
www.chsgardens.co.nz
facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety



Think Global Act Local

A Farmers' Market is a food market where local growers, farmers and artisan food producers sell their wares directly to consumers. Vendors may only sell what they grow, farm, pickle, preserve, bake, smoke or catch themselves from within a defined local area.

ALL ABOUT GARDENING July 2015

Located at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre

Tuesday 7 July 7pm - 9pm

Wednesday 8 July 9.45am - 11.45am

Bright New Things

Garden trends for Spring and Summer

Small Soakers, Suckers and Munchers in your Garden

Macro-photographer Tony Mander gives us a close up and personal look at some of those nasties that attack our favourite plants.

Members: \$5.00

non-members: \$10.00

Tea, coffee and refreshments included

CONGRATULATIONS!

Only four points separate the first and last place in this year's Quiz. Competition was fierce with many sharp minds competing for glory but a fun night was had by all. The Club Championship was shared by the **Cashmere Garden Club** and the **CHS Chrysanthemum Circle**. Many thanks to Dave Adams for running the evening again. The June Quiz questions will appear in the newsletter over the next few months.

Farmers' Markets An excellent alternative

Farmers' Markets are springing up all over New Zealand. Greater Christchurch has over 12 markets and most are open Winter - Summer, rain or shine.

These unique markets have numerous benefits. They are good for farmers as they provide a different source of revenue. They can get higher prices as the middle man is cut out and they have the opportunity to diversify their skills - gaining marketing and business expertise. They are good for the local economy; more money is spent locally and it circulates in the locality for longer. There is also high knock-on spending in other shops on market days. In contrast, spending at supermarkets greatly reduces the local spend, as most revenue leaves the local area immediately. *Continued on page 6*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a busy month this has been with the Winter Speaker Series and workshops organised by the Education Committee and the Garage Sale volunteers thank you lunch, Quiz Night, Ramblers and our Mid-Winter lunch organised by the Social Committee, our volunteers have been working hard to bring you a wide variety of activities.

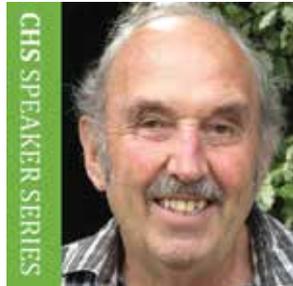
The 95 who supported our lunch at Visions Restaurant had not only great food but were highly entertained by the anecdotes of Da'Vella Gore's life. Her story of going to buy a pound of butter which developed into having lunch with 13 West Coast priests and a greyhound dog which danced all round the table and ended with her buying a church which she saved from demolition and rebuilt on her Lake Hayes property was just the start of an afternoon of laughter. We were so lucky to have her company.. a truly inspirational lady.

Stay warm, Elizabeth

WINTER SPEAKER SERIES. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - Pest plants and their control

INTERACTIVE HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP.

John Thacker is the third speaker in the series, with *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - Pest plants and their control*. His talk is on Thursday 9 July at 7pm.



John's initial career was in tourism working for Guthrey's Travel for 9 years planning tours, meeting clients and general trouble-shooting. His redundancy led to a major career shift and he then worked for the Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) for 25 years as a Biosecurity Officer.

John was responsible for changing the lexicon from "plant pests" to "pest plants". It's more than a semantic difference. Plant pests clearly refers to biological "pests" that endanger the health of plants be they weeds or otherwise. John firmly believes in biological as opposed to chemical controls and the challenge is to identify "plant pests that can control pest plants".

The Winter Speaker Series talks start at 7pm in the PC Browne Room at the CHS Centre, 57 Riccarton Ave, South Hagley Park. Light refreshments will be served.

The final speaker presenting the MJ Barnett Memorial Lecture is Prof Jenny Webster-Brown. Her lecture is on *Managing Water Run-off in an Urban Environment* and takes place at 7pm on **Thursday 13 August 2015**.

WORM FARMING

Thirteen keen worm farmers or would be worm farmers attended Dougal McEachen's fascinating worm farming workshop at the CHS premises on Saturday 20 June. Dougal, director of Earthly Delights, conducted a highly entertaining interactive session that had the group spellbound. His worm farming 101 covered everything from the difference between compost and earth worms to how to feed and nurture the little critters. His practical demonstration was complete with worms, some of which were determined to escape the confines of their enclosure and join the audience. A worthwhile and enjoyable event.

ALL ABOUT GARDENING AUGUST

Tue 4 August 7pm & Wed 5 August 9.45am

Avon-Ōtākaro Network - progress update
Gardening in Hotter Climates

North Canterbury landscape gardener, rural development specialist and tour guide Sue Verrall has spent many years in East Africa. She takes us on a tour of some her favourite gardens and discusses the challenges of gardening in hotter climes.

CHS CIRCLES

Floral Art Circle

Thu 16 July 1.30pm Watling Room

Chrysanthemum Circle

Mon 20 July 7.30pm Watling Room

Begonia Circle

Soup & Savoury lunch followed by
Special General Meeting

Sun 19 July 11am - 4pm PC Browne Room

CHS AFFILIATES

Orchid Society

Mon 6 July 7pm Watling Room

Garden Club Reps Meeting

Tue 7 July 10am PC Browne Room

AGM

The CHS Annual General Meeting is on **Thursday 10 September at 7.30pm**. Nominations for members of the Board are being called for. *Nomination forms are available from the office and online.*

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Helleborus Pukehou Hybrids

This New Zealand hybrid is an evergreen perennial with handsome foliage and upright flowers in bright clean colours ranging from soft apricot to lime to deep black. It has a compact clumping habit and only requires feed and cutting back in early Spring.

A great feature for under-planting as it likes moist, shady sites and will respond well to planting under deep-rooted deciduous trees.

Available from any Oderings Garden Centre or online www.oderings.co.nz from \$15

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Last month's Special General Meeting was attended by 31 members. It was passed unanimously that the CHS change the current 30 June financial year to a calendar year in order to reflect CHS activities. Membership subscriptions will continue to be sent out this month for a 12 month period.

Confirmation of the Sale and Purchase agreement for the CHS building has been deferred until 30 September and possession deferred to 1 November 2015.

No details are currently available as to the new location of the CHS office.

SCHOOL GARDENS SHOW

We are very pleased to announce that Oderings Garden Centres are once again our principal sponsor for the School Gardens Show. The 2016 Oderings School Gardens Show runs 8 - 13 March 2016.



QUIZ TIME

Can you identify where these plant places are located?

1. Oakland
2. The Big Apple
3. Kauri Cliffs
4. Yarrow Stadium
5. Kowhai Bush

answers online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

Eden Project for Christchurch?

From the Mountains to the Sea / *Ki Uta Ki Tai*

A major visitor attraction is proposed for Christchurch based on the successful UK Eden Project www.edenproject.com.

From the Mountains to the Sea (*Ki Uta Ki Tai*) will tell the story of water through nature, culture and science. Its proposed location is the Avonside Loop to form part of the Avon-Ōtākaro Network.

Tim Smit KBE, Co-founder the Eden Project will be visiting Christchurch and he will give a public talk on **Friday 3 July at the Charles Luney Auditorium, St Margarets School at 6pm.**

All aspects of life are shaped by water. To the tangata whenua land represents the earth-mother; and together with air and water form an essential part of their mauri (life force, source of emotions).

To the scientific eye, the land on which we live has been shaped by snow, ice and water and water is seen as a source of production, wealth and opportunity.

As a bi-cultural society these sets of beliefs shape New Zealand's contemporary views of resource management and the search for pathways to sustainability.

From snow covered mountains to the fertile lowland plains *Ki Uta Ki Tai* traces the numerous interactions between land, water and

people. Generations of human endeavour have sought to harvest nature's bounty in innovative and efficient ways. *Ki Uta ki Tai* tells the unfolding story of our endeavour, science and experiments in a continuing search for a catalyst to longevity, vitality and rebirth.

Through engagement with *Ki Uta Ki Tai* people will develop new understanding of the importance of water in their lives – and take home new perspectives on how to treat it gently.

"It will showcase New Zealand's unique and varied environments from our alpine region to our wetlands and demonstrate our community's commitment to regeneration and sustainability." Lianne Dalziel, Mayor of Christchurch.

"We have a vision to share with selected partners around the world to grow and build new and culturally distinct iconic centres that will each make their own unique contributions."
Sir Tim Smit, KBE, Co-founder the Eden Project.

50 tickets are available for CHS members free of charge. Please contact the CHS Office to register on tel: 366 6937 or email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thu 16 July 3:45 - 5pm Watling Room

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 tel: 342 6236

CHS RAMBLERS

Tue 14 July Kaiapoi

Meet at Kaiapoi Park, Smith St near Ranfurly St, Kaiapoi

Tue 28 July Avonhead

Meet Stavelly St Reserve, corner Stavelly St & Nortons Rd

UPDATED TIME for 2015

Walks start at **9.45am** every second and fourth **Tuesday** each month. FREE

No walk if very wet.

INTERACTIVE HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS

Pruning with Alan Jolliffe

Workshop A: Sat 4 July 10am - 12pm
20 Longstaff Rd, Halswell

Workshop B: Sat 11 July 10am - 12pm
West Spreydon School, Lyttelton St

Members: FREE Non-members: \$10
Book online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

Michael Coulter's Top Tasks

July is one of the coldest months of the year and there is not much plant growth (weeds seem to be the exception) so much of the activity in the garden involves pruning, general clean up and maintenance.

There are pruning demonstrations to be held on Saturday 4 and 11 July which will help to show the best way to prune your trees, shrubs and fruit trees.

When preparing to prune it is important that the tools to be used are suitable for the task ahead. Tools must be clean, sharp and capable of cutting the size of the branch to be removed. I like to use good quality secateurs, loppers and pruning saws as I find that they stay sharp, keep clean for longer and do not wear out quickly (most of my pruning tools I have had for over 20 years). After use always clean the tools as

any plant sap left on them will eat into the blades and they will not last very long.

Winter is a good time to clean all gardening tools to protect them from rust and repair any broken handles etc. so that they are all ready for the season ahead. After the last cutting of the lawn send the mower in for a service and if needed sharpen or replace blades so you are ready for Spring. Do not cut the lawns too low and try not to walk on very wet or frozen grass. Clean up the last of the leaves and put pea straw or a coarse mulch down around the more tender plants to protect the crown of the plant from hard frosts.

Roses, fruit trees and other deciduous plants which are bare rooted are now available for planting, many of these are sold in planter plastic bags with bark

around the roots, but do not leave in the bags. Remove them and plant as soon as possible so that they will settle into the ground before Spring growth. Choose well-shaped strong plants that have a good root ball in relation to the plant size.

If you have a glass or tunnel house and are able to give some bottom heat then some seeds can be sown although as the days are still short seedlings are slow and damping off can be a problem.

Many of the Winter and Spring bulbs are coming through the ground now so keep the weeds away to reduce competition and encourage growth.

The usual Winter spray programme on fruit trees, roses and ornamentals should be done on fine sunny days.

Happy Shoppers

Happy Growers

Farmers' Markets are good for consumers and good for the environment. Consumers enjoy the atmosphere and experience of Farmers' Markets. They get fresh, healthy produce usually at competitive prices. Food travels less far; there are less "food miles" and has less packaging.

Invariably, one of the main attractions of shopping at a Farmers' Market is that they are vibrant social occasions. It is the atmosphere as much as the food quality which brings people back. A study of Farmers' Markets in Ontario by the University of Guelph found that "Customers suggest that the market is a key community icon that can serve to reinforce and help retain community identity ... customers pointed out that Farmers' Markets represent an excellent alternative to mainstream supermarket

shopping with a friendly, relaxed atmosphere that can not be duplicated anywhere else."

Many of our local markets have a unique blend of farm, food and craft businesses. They showcase the sights, smells and sounds of a community - all of which draw tourists who bring new dollars from outside the community.

Another benefit is the opportunity for people to re-connect with food and farmers. Consumers meet the people who grow their food; they get in touch with where their food comes from and how it is grown. This is good for farmers as it makes consumers more sensitive to the farm situation - the more we understand the connection of family farms to healthy communities, the better for farmers everywhere.

A Market near you

Ashburton District Farmers' Market
West Street Carpark, Sat 9am - 12pm

Christchurch Farmers' Market
Riccarton House, Sat 9am - 1pm

Gap Filler Farmers' Market
70 Kilmore Street, Sun 9.30am - 1.30pm

Kaiapoi Farmers' Market
Morgan Williams Reserve, Sat 9am - 12pm

Lincoln Farmers and Craft Market
Gerald Street, Sat 10am - 1pm

Lyttelton Farmers Market
London Street, Sat 9am - 1pm

Mt Pleasant Farmers' Market
3 McCormacks Bay Road, Sat 8.30am - 1pm

Ohoka Farmers' Market
Ohoka Domain, Fri 9am - 12.30pm

Opawa Farmers' Market
275 Fifield Terrace, Sun 9am - 12pm

Oxford Farmers' Market
Main Street Oxford, Sun 9am - 12pm

Sumner Fresh Produce Market
15 Wakefield Street, Wed 2.30 - 6pm

Waipara Valley Farmers' Market
66 Carters Road, Sat 9am - 12pm

INTERACTIVE HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS

Container Gardening with Dave Adams
Saturday 15 August 10am - 12pm
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

Members: FREE Non-members: \$10
Book online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

please note these details differ from the original publicity material

WINTER SPEAKER SERIES - JULY

John Thacker:
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – Pest plants and their control

Thursday 9 July 7.00pm
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

Members FREE Non-members \$10
Book online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

WINTER SPEAKER SERIES - AUGUST

Prof Jenny Webster-Brown presents the final lecture for the 2015 series with:
Managing Water Run-off in an Urban Environment

Thursday 13 August 7.00pm
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

Members FREE Non-members \$10
Book online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

MJ Barnett Memorial Lecture

View from the Deck

Alan Jolliffe on Public Parks & Spaces

There seems to be a view that public gardens, squares and spaces are only valuable if they can provide an economic benefit. The continuing emphasis on the planning and development of event spaces, market spaces and the like needs to be balanced against the aesthetic nature of spaces as "works of art" to be admired and experienced.

Overall, society spends millions of dollars managing, purchasing, maintaining, conserving and installing "works of art" in art galleries and public spaces. BUT when it comes to the well designed and managed outdoor spaces these must be used in some way for economic benefit.

We are told that works of art are part of

our cultural heritage but so are our parks and squares and they should be given the same reverence as those "works of art".

We would not tolerate destruction of our works of art so why should we destroy our heritage parks and gardens.

I say remove the smelly cheap markets and tacky opening and other events from our squares, parks and open spaces.

Of course this view is in response to the Victoria Square debacle but equally it applies to Cathedral Square, Botanic Gardens, Hagley Park and other spaces.

Lets appreciate and experience these spaces as their own stand alone "works of art".

ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS

Your Help Is Needed!

We have developed a three tier support programme to help the schools maintain their orchards.

Tier 1 involves master mentors who will advise on the work needed to be done each quarter and maybe provide some skills training on site. **Tier 2** will require 2 or 3 CHS members per school to act as guides and ensure that the relevant work is completed in a timely and proficient way according to the action plan created by the master mentor. **Tier 3** will involve the teachers, parents and students at each school who will do most of the actual work and learning.

Email tony.kunowski@chsgardens.co.nz and indicate which school (or schools) you'd like to support - Northcote, Addington, Oaklands or St Martins.

TOURS

Art & Gardens

Later this year the CHS revisit the spectacular Taranaki region with a 7 day longer break tour. As well as stunning gardens the group will have the opportunity to visit the renowned Govett-Brewster Art Gallery; New Zealand's first and only museum of contemporary art.

TARANAKI SPECTACULAR

The latest addition to the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, the Len Lye Centre is New Zealand's first institution dedicated to a single artist, the pioneering filmmaker and kinetic sculptor, Len Lye.

Overlooked by the majestic Mount Taranaki, the centre opens this month, perfect timing for our visit in early November.

The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre, with its curved exterior walls of mirror-like stainless steel, is the country's first example of destination architecture linked to contemporary art.

The Govett-Brewster presents innovative and provocative work by New Zealand and international artists, supported by a significant and growing permanent collection of paintings, video, installation and photography.

The exhibitions and residency programmes – presented through three seasonal suites annually – include the commissioning of new and site-specific projects by national and international artists.

The Len Lye Centre building adjoining the Govett-Brewster, as a combined art museum, is an example of innovative thinking in both engineering and architecture.

The external stainless steel façade echoes the artist's use of the metal in many of his kinetic sculptures and the futuristic style of the building acts as a counterfoil to the neighbouring Govett-Brewster's more traditional lines.

The architects are Pattersons, one of New Zealand's most internationally recognised architectural firms.

A temple for art, the space creates a sensory experience of light that Len's legacy inspires.

The Len Lye Centre will feature Lye's work in kinetic sculpture, film, painting, drawing, photography, batik and writing, as well as related work by contemporary and historical artists. It also houses a state-of-the-art 62-seat cinema – a welcoming environment for audiences to experience Lye's films, local and international cinema, arthouse and experimental films and regular film festival programming.

The Taranaki Spectacular tour runs 7-12 November and includes return airfares CHC-NPL with Air NZ and four star accommodation.

For brochure and bookings please contact the CHS Office tel: 366 6937 or email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

TOUR DIARY



Spring into Darfield Day Tour Wed 23 Sep 2015
A feast of Spring colour - Gunyah Estate, Taradale and the private gardens of Ina Phillips & Trish Ballaghs.
Book now: \$105 includes morning tea, lunch & coach



WOW Wellington Short Break 2-4 Oct 2015
Return Airfares, Ruth Pretty's, A Reserve World of WearableArt Awards Show tickets. **Only 2 places left**
Book now: \$1,045 \$199 single supplement



Dalkeith Look & Learn 1pm Wed 21 Oct 2015
A showcase of late Spring colour at its best
Book now: \$20 \$2 car pool includes afternoon tea



Taranaki Spectacular Longer Break 7-12 Nov 2015
A feast of gardens (large and small) scenic attractions, bush and coastal walks, garden centre visits and free time for retail therapy.
Book now: \$2,199 \$425 single supplement



Chiang Mai Flower Festival - Thailand
13 Day Longer Break 28 Jan - 10 Feb 2016
Includes 3 nights Bangkok, 2 nights River Kwai, 2 nights Chiang Rai and 5 nights in peaceful Chiang Mai.
Book now: \$5,999 \$550 single supplement



Norfolk Island Longer Break April 2016
A repeat of this popular tour with a difference including an Anzac Day special event. **Register your interest now**

CHIANG MAI FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Thai-Burma Railway

The Thai -Burma Railway,- often referred to as the "Death Railway", because of the number of prisoners of war and civilians that died during its construction, was started in October 1942 and completed one short year later. It covered some 419kms.

The infamous "Death Railway" was constructed by allied POWs, civilian prisoners and conscripts of the Japanese army to enable the Japanese to transport soldiers and supplies to support their armies in Burma and then on to India.

The railway was built under atrocious conditions and took little account of obstructive landforms or regard for the unforgiving landscape that lay on its route. Over 13,000 POWs and over 80,000 civilians died whilst constructing it.

One of the more poignant highlights of our trip to Thailand will be a visit to two sites on this railway, "Hellfire Pass" and "The Bridge on the River Kwai".



Where the railway line came to a geographical obstruction the prisoners had to bridge it or cut through it. This was the case of the Konyu cutting, known to all as "Hellfire Pass". In 1943 the prisoners were forced to cut a gully 75 metres long and 17 metres deep largely by hand for at least 12, but often up to 18 hours a day.

After the war, parts of the railway was demolished and the line allowed to revert to the jungle but in 1980 the line was cleared and now "Hell Fire Pass" is maintained in remembrance of all those who died during its construction.

We also visit "The Bridge on the River Kwai". Two bridges were built at this site by POWs, a wooden trestle bridge and a steel bridge which sits alongside. Both bridges were finished in early 1943. Our visit to these sites will almost certainly be one of learning and remembrance.

*Join us on our Chiang Mai Flower Festival Tour. 13 Days of Colour & Culture 28 Jan - 12 Feb 2016. This fabulous trip takes in Bangkok, the iconic River Kwai, Mae Fah Luang Gardens and Chiang Mai. This fully escorted tour is packed with inclusions and excellent value for money. **Book now: \$5,999 single supplement: \$550***

Member of the Month

Ruth Bird

Where were you born and where did you spend most of your childhood?

I was born in Leeston and spent my early childhood on a farm at Lakeside. I boarded in Christchurch for secondary school.

Where do you live now and with whom?

My husband and I moved to Christchurch in 1970 from Greymouth. We lived in various residences in leafy Fendalton. I've been in my current house on Memorial Avenue for the past 16 years.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

Being brought up on a farm with a large vege and flower garden and with a Grandfather and Mother who were very interested in horticulture.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

I've always had an interest in many plants and growing vegetables for the table.



What's your favourite plant and why?

All flowers have a special beauty. Spring bulbs for new beginnings, rhododendrons for their reliability and variety of colour, peonies for their bright blousy blooms, roses for perfume, Autumn leaves for their changing colour and hellebores for their Winter brightness.

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

Each year keeping the garden tidy and weed free becomes more challenging on your own.

When did you join the CHS and why?

My husband and I joined the CHS in the early 1990s so we could learn more by listening to the very knowledgeable speakers.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

To have members with energy and passion to take the CHS into the future.

MONTHLY RECIPE

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER & BLUE CHEESE SOUP

With a wonderful garnish of roasted hazelnuts & crispy bacon

Ingredients

1 whole cauliflower, trimmed, leaves removed
2 Tbsp butter, melted
salt & fine white pepper
6 C vege stock or water
100g blue cheese, crumbled
3 Tbsp chopped parsley
2 C milk
½ C cream

Garnish

½ C roasted hazelnuts, roughly chopped
4 rashers streaky bacon, diced and cooked in a little oil until crispy

Method

Cut cauliflower into small florets and place in a roasting dish. Drizzle over butter and toss to lightly coat. Spread out in a single layer, season with salt and pepper and pour 1 cup of stock or water into the base of the dish.

Roast at 180°C for about 40 minutes until tender and just starting to caramelize around the edges.

Purée cauliflower with its cooking juices until smooth then transfer to a pot; add the rest of the stock or water, blue cheese, parsley, milk and cream. Bring to a simmer; adjust seasonings to taste. Divide among serving bowls and garnish with crispy bacon and hazelnuts.

For more great Annabel Langbein recipes see: www.annabel-langbein.com



kiwigardener



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