



# CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society  
 Newsletter No 222 March 2016  
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## PRIME MINISTER OPENS NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN & ORCHARD FOR CENTRAL CITY

Prime Minister John Key (pictured here with Dr. Matt Morris and Hon Nicky Wagner) recently opened a new community garden and orchard in the North Frame, in Cambridge Terrace between Colombo Street & Manchester Streets.



## ALL ABOUT GARDENING

March 2016

Tuesday 1st 7pm & Wednesday 2nd 9.45am

**From your Gardens** - This month's featured produce: courgettes, dahlias and anything special. Success and problems plants equally welcome!

### Glass Houses 101

Beat those Canterbury pesky winds, unseasonal hail and rain storms and variable temperatures by investing in a glasshouse. Grow perfect fruit and vegetables throughout the season. Models are available these days for even the smallest garden. Learn all the tricks and techniques for glass house gardening.

### Potting Up

Learn how to grow your favourite plants so you can share them with friends and support the AAG sales table. Practical/interactive workshops with Michael Coulter and Dave Adams.

Members: \$5.00 non-members: \$10.00

Morning tea/supper included

Canterbury Horticultural Centre

South Hagley Park

## CHS SUPPORTS CITY ORCHARD

The Food Resilience Network (FRN) was successful in securing a five year lease on a block of land in the North Frame to develop a community orchard and garden, with a café.

A large collaboration quickly formed around the project – which has the working title Ōtākaro Orchard – taking in around 30 organisations and businesses, including the Christchurch City Council and Community and Public Health, alongside Permaculture Canterbury, the Food Forest Collective, Canterbury Horticultural Society, Canterbury Community Gardens Association, WOOD Ltd and many more.

“Our vision is of a top-quality community garden and orchard, working in conjunction with a social enterprise café run jointly by several social service agencies.

It will be a place for education about growing food – with community workshops, vocational training and informal learning all taking place here, within the context of a caring,

nurturing environment.

Finally, it will be a place for residents and visitors alike to come together and share food and a place to rest and reflect on the future for the Garden City and we feel really honoured to be holding this space next to the Earthquake Memorial. We feel this garden and orchard will be a healing place for our community,” said Dr Morris.

It is also a shop front for the region-wide food resilience movement that has been gathering momentum since the devastating earthquakes. The idea is simply to make good food more accessible to more people in our communities.

A givealittle crowd-funding campaign has been set up to help fund the project, valued at \$1.7m. The team is also looking for project partners to support the project. “We have had some great offers already, such as from engineering company GHD and we are on the lookout for more,” Dr Morris said.

See [www.otakaroorchard.org.nz](http://www.otakaroorchard.org.nz) for further information and links

# Summer Garden Awards

2016  
Results



## LARGE RESIDENTIAL

**Bronwyn & Peter McNicholl**  
44 Northcote Road, Northcote  
GOLD 1st & Premier



**Peter Lawrence**  
1 Watermill Blvd, Northwood  
GOLD 2nd

**Audrey & Stewart Nicholson**  
11 Quirk Place, Upper Riccarton  
SILVER 3rd

**Anna Stegehuis**  
137 Grimseys Road, Redwood  
BRONZE

## MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL

**Brian & Janet Lovelock**  
32 Applefield Court, Northwood  
GOLD 1st

**Dr Vicki Fowler & Mr Bernie Smulders**  
17 Mauger Drive, Heathcote Valley  
SILVER 2nd

**Carol Skinner**  
26 Applefield Court, Northwood  
SILVER 3rd=

**J & A Neilson**  
14 Cardinal Drive, Hillmorton  
SILVER 3rd=

**Croydon Thomas**  
3 Larnach Street, Waimari Beach  
BRONZE

**Mervyn Rodgers**  
90 Northwood Blvd, Northwood  
BRONZE

**Rowena McNabb**  
65 Dyers Pass Road, Cashmere  
BRONZE

**Hoko Ria**  
7 Bering Street, Northwood  
BRONZE

**Bryan & Elizabeth Mountford**  
2 Brookwater Avenue, Styx Mill  
BRONZE

**Mrs Irvine**  
6 Hemingford Place, Halswell  
BRONZE

**Helga Dickson**  
2 Langham Place, Redwood  
BRONZE

**Mary Revis**  
11 Greta Place, Hoon Hay  
MERIT

**William & Verle Garlick**  
3 Ashgrove Tce, Somerfield  
MERIT

**Kevin & Monica Bennett**  
6 Okuku Place, Hei Hei  
MERIT

**Sarah Johnson**  
217 Grahams Road, Burnside  
MERIT

**Rajnish Mani**  
52 Mackenzie Avenue, Woolston  
MERIT

*Visit our online photo album at  
<https://flic.kr/s/aHskv6YCxe> to  
see more of the winning gardens*

## ALL ABOUT GARDENING April 2016

*Tuesday 5th 7pm & Wednesday 6th 9.45am*

**This month's featured produce:** Tomatoes, alpiners, potatoes & anything special from your garden. Success and problem plants equally welcome!

### Mad About Saffron

**All About Potatoes** - the storage and uses of potatoes and potato products.

## CHS CIRCLES

**Chrysanthemum Circle**  
*Monday 21 March 7.30pm*  
General notes, pest control, problem solving and questions. Update on National Show, allocation of duties.

**Floral Art Circle**  
*Thursday 17 March 1.30pm*  
**Workshop** - Happy St Patrick's Day.  
Irish/green design

**Fruit & Vegetable Circle**  
*Wednesday 30 March 7pm*  
**Keeping poultry in your own back yard** - Marina Steinke is very enthusiastic about people keeping their own hens. She will talk to us about her experiences in setting up a home for hens on her property.

*All CHS Circle meetings take place in the Watling Lounge at the CHS Centre*

## NEW GARDEN

**Andrew Jarrett**  
71 Diamond Avenue, Spreydon  
GOLD 1st

**Jenny & Jim Clifford**  
33 Euphrasie Drive, Aidenfield  
SILVER 2nd

**Jane Kendall**  
1 Noosa Place, North Beach  
BRONZE 3rd

**Sydney Gray**  
2/20 Kevin Street, Hoon Hay  
BRONZE

**Di Madgin**  
132 Port Hills Road, Heathcote  
BRONZE

**Liz Mooyman**  
10 Rimu Street, Riccarton  
BRONZE

**Lorraine Campbell**  
23 Horton Place, Avondale  
MERIT

## POCKET GARDEN

**Barbara Wolever**  
12/95 Grants Road, Papanui  
BRONZE 1st

**Leo Ark**  
169A Clarence Street, Riccarton  
BRONZE 2nd

## SMALL RESIDENTIAL

**Helena Lackie**  
27 Brookwater Avenue, Styx Mill  
GOLD 1st

**Audrey Burnett**  
24A Bounty Street, Bryndwr  
BRONZE 2nd

**Joyce Reid**  
7/19 Aberfoyle Place, Parklands  
MERIT 3rd

## BUSINESS & INSTITUTIONS

**Halswell Bowling Club**  
GOLD

**Styx Mill Country Club**  
GOLD

**The Vineyard @ Rossendale**  
BRONZE

**Chateau on the Park Hotel**  
BRONZE

**Woolston Club Inc**  
BRONZE

**Hornby W.M.C.**  
BRONZE

## COMMUNITY SPACE

**Christchurch City Mission**

Community Award

**Brackenridge Community Choices**

Community Award

**Smith St Community Garden**  
Community Award

**Linwood Resource Centre**  
Community Award

**SkillWise**  
Community Award

## RETIREMENT HOMES

**Golden Age Retirement Village**  
SILVER

**Oceana Healthcare**  
BRONZE

**Fitzroy of Merivale**  
MERIT

# From the President

## 2016 Wow! What a Celebration

Last year I expressed my admiration for all the Events the CHS manages to organise in a year. 2016 will be no different and we may have even more events for you.

**Shirley/Papanui Edible Garden Awards** results announced this month.

**Oderings School Garden Show** at the Woolston Club 11-13 March. Car parking aplenty.

**Autumn Garden Show** at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens 30 April 1 May - "Celebrating Autumn"

**All About Gardening** held twice a month starting with the first Tuesday evening of the month followed by Wednesday morning.

**Ramblers** a great way to get to know your city with other walkers. Held twice a month every second and fourth Tuesday.

**Culverden Fête & Hanmer Springs Overnight Tour** Thursday 27 October

That's just for starters.

We are making a few changes to our events to improve them so come along and check them out. Your feedback is important in

improving your Society.

Each of these events and activities are one of our ways of contributing to the Garden City image of Christchurch.

Also we are extending our internet presence with Facebook. Our facebook page has nearly 300 members from Christchurch. New Zealand and around the world. We have recently launched our question and answer Facebook group, HortTalk. It's free to join for online advice.

More to come on this front as well as we need to attract younger members who are regular users of social media.

With all this action why not bring a friend, neighbour, son or daughter to our events and introduce them to the wonderful world of gardening and horticulture.



Alan Jolliffe CHS President

## JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 17 March 3:45 - 5pm  
Watling Room

## GARDEN CLUB REPS

Garden Club Reps  
Tuesday 1 March 10am  
PC Browne Room

## RAMBLERS 2016

Tuesday 8 March 9.45am  
Mona Vale  
Meet in car park by Rose Garden

Tuesday 22 March 9.45am  
Broomfield  
Meet at reserve corner. Rannoch Drive & Glen Kerran Close (turn into Rosella Street off Carmen Road)

No walk if very wet. FREE  
[www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers)

## QUIZ TIME Q & A

To which genus do the following plants belong?

1. Daffodil
2. Calla
3. Gladiolus
4. Marigold
5. Pumpkin

Answers: [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz)

## MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS With Michael Coulter

March late Summer and the start of the early Autumn season is a time of harvest and preparation for Winter crops. Apples and pears are at their very best and nothing can compare with the flavour of tree ripened fruit.

There is still plenty of colour in the flower garden, to keep the flowers in bloom remove the spent flowers and cut back excess growth. Keep gardens weed free as this reduces pest and disease on our plants and the seeds from dropping on the ground to grow next year.

Dahlias and chrysanthemums are in full bloom now. There are a number of flower shows coming up which show these blooms at their very best and are well worth a look.

The days are getting shorter but can still be very warm so watering should be maintained to keep plants growing well. I like to do this in the morning so that plants are dry at night and fungus diseases are not encouraged.

## Lawns

1. Mow lawns each week but not too low.
2. Feed and weed type fertilisers can now be applied.
3. De thatching of lawns before Winter can begin.
4. New lawns may now be sown so that they are established before Winter.
5. Look out for fungus diseases in grass and treat if needed.



# Christchurch Botanic Gardens News

*Kirsten Tui MacFarlane reports on a makeover for big trees & new ways to enhance visitor experience*

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens attracts around 1.2 million visitors a year, and in August we're expecting 50,000 visitors for Botanic D'Lights. All this foot traffic is great for business, but has a big impact on our environs. In particular the big trees on Armstrong Lawn needed attention.

Bede Nottingham, Team Leader of Operations for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens, says foot traffic impacts the soil around trees and this leads to root damage.

"We had to find an efficient way to mitigate the damage, so we're trialling a new technique called 'air spading' which uses great volumes of compressed air to break-up the soil around the base without damaging the roots."

For added protection, the garden's team have mulched around the base of the trees.



Visitors also want to get up close to our garden beds for the obligatory selfie, and our plants often get trampled in the process. Rather than rope off the beds, some of our collection curators have created pathways right through their beddings.

Susan Sanders has woven several paths through her eye-catching bed of Dahlias. Guillaume

Jacob has intersected a circle of wildflowers with a grass path, which offers the perfect photo op!



## EVENTS AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS

### Sunday Bandstand

Sunday afternoons to 20 March  
12.30pm - 2pm

Join Christchurch's wonderful brass, silver and pipe bands for a free concert on the Central Lawn at the Botanic Gardens.

More info: [www.summertimes.co.nz](http://www.summertimes.co.nz)

### Leaves of Gold Discovery Trail

Loads of fun for the kids.  
16 April - 1 May

## SHARE YOUR GARDEN

Are you a gardener with a favourite season? Would you be happy to show off your seasonal style to a small group of CHS members?

If you have something special to share - from perfect peonies to handsome hostas - we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the CHS office or register your interest by completing the Share Your Garden brochure, available online and at All About Gardening.

## AUTUMN GARDEN SHOW

INCORPORATING  
the National Chrysanthemum Show

30 APRIL & 1 MAY 2016  
Christchurch Botanic Gardens 10am - 5pm  
JOINTLY PRESENTED  
Canterbury Horticultural Society  
Christchurch City Council Botanic Gardens

## Flower Garden

1. Cut back spent flower heads on perennials and lilies.
2. Tie up taller growing plants like chrysanthemums and asters before they get too tall and full over.
3. Remove Summer flowering annuals as they finish flowering to make way for Winter/Spring flowering annuals.
4. As the weather cools Spring bulbs should be planted in the ground or in pots.
5. Cuttings of geraniums and fuchsias taken now will give good plants next Spring for planting out.
6. Plant pansies, primulas, polyanthus, poppies and violas now for good Winter displays.

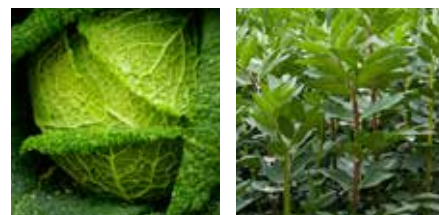
## Fruit & Vegetable Garden

1. Plant Winter brassicas.
2. Feed leeks and keep well watered.
3. Spray stone fruit trees for leaf curl with copper sprays and prune.
4. Feed and keep citrus trees well watered to ensure good size, juicy fruit.
5. Pick apples when ripe. Good firm fruit can be stored by wrapping in tissue



paper placing in a box and storing in a cool dark place.

6. Remove lower leaves from tomatoes to help ripening.
7. Sow green crops on unused ground to improve soil for next seasons crops



Michael's Monthly Tips & Tasks are available online at: [www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/all-about-gardening/tips-tasks](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/all-about-gardening/tips-tasks)

# Enchanting Thailand

*Gail Scrivener reflects on the ever colourful Thailand*

The Thailand Tour was an amazing experience for the twelve participants from the CHS. Everyday there was adventure to enjoy, sights to see, interesting history, culture and cuisine of this colourful land.

Two experiences stand out for me: While we were staying in Chiang Rai we travelled into the northern Highlands to Doi Tung and the Mae Fah Luang Gardens. These landscaped gardens are situated high up on the mountain of Doi Tung and we were rewarded with a stunning display of familiar plants and flowers. Set over 10 acres, the ornamental gardens owe their existence to the Princess Mother (the late mother of Thailand's present king) who wanted to give those Thai people who have never travelled

overseas the opportunity to enjoy a temperate flower garden. The decorative flowers in Mae Fah Luang Garden are grown and nurtured by local villagers who benefit from the tourist revenue and job opportunities offered by the garden.

The other highlight was attending the flower festival parade in Chiang Mai. Chiang Mai is popularly known as 'The Rose of the North' and with its enchanting location on the banks of the Ping River, the city and surroundings are blessed with a stunning natural beauty and a uniquely indigenous cultural identity.

We were fortunate to enjoy the parade from our very own reserved viewing platform. This provided an optimum view for the colourful and creative floats featured in the parade. This year there



## TOUR DIARY



### Seasonal Style with CHS Members Gardens

Visit the local gardens of CHS Members and join in an informal exchange of gardening knowledge. Starting Autumn. *See brochure for more information*



### Culverden Fête & Hanmer Springs

Thursday 27 October - Overnight

Enjoy the delicious local fare and handicrafts at the Culverden fête then head over to Hanmer Springs to explore the private gardens of this unique alpine setting. *Brochure & costs available soon*



### WOW World of Wearable Arts - Wellington

October 2016, a repeat of this popular Wellington short break *Brochure & costs available soon*



### Auckland Flower Show & Waiheke Island

Short Break - Mid November

*Register your interest now for a chance to explore Auckland's first flower show post Ellerslie.*

were twenty three flower floats, accompanied by numerous performers and marching bands.

The floats were cleverly and meticulously designed with intricate decorations utilising a variety of vegetables, marigolds, daisies, orchids, roses and seeds.

We were treated to a boxed mid morning snack, sun-hats decorated with orchids, and comfortable cushions. The 'Go See Thailand' team made sure our every need was met in genuine friendly Thai style.

There were many other wonderful experiences on our



12 day tour, such as the Maesa Elephant Camp; Long necked Hill tribe people; walking across the bridge over the River Kwai; shopping in the night bazaar; enjoying a traditional Thai massage; Thai cooking class and so much more.

To my fellow travellers, thank you for your great company and the memories we share.

*For more colourful images from the tour please visit our online Thailand photo album at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskrwapWX>*



# Member of the Month

Marilyn Pollock

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

I was born in Wellington - attended Queen Margaret College then worked at the Reserve Bank until 1960 when I went to the UK on my OE. Met my husband Dave over there and we returned to settle in Christchurch in 1964.

## Where do you live now and with whom?

Dave is in care and I live on my own in our family home in Spreydon.

## What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

Inheriting a big garden when we moved here. I also have a large glasshouse which has given me hours of pleasure over the years.

## What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

I now enjoy pottering in the garden but have a gardener, who comes weekly to keep things in order, lawns etc.

## What's your favourite plant and why?

Fuchsias and roses - because of the beautiful colour range and the

easy care.

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

Making a pebble garden where formerly there was a very dilapidated shed.

## When did you join the CHS and why?

Can't remember - many years ago after joining Somerfield Garden Club. Have learnt such a lot from All About Gardening sessions.

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

The Society needs to keep a strong presence to keep Christchurch as the Garden City and to foster a love of gardening for future generations.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Euphorbia Lipstick*

The original Euphorbia of this species was from Madagascar and called Euphorbia milii. Euphorbia somona was developed from this and bred for the European market which meant it was important that it was a compact plant. These were also very popular in tropical Thailand and Taiwan, where they were called Poysean (or Eight Saints) named after the eight saints of Chinese mythology: health, bravery, riches, beauty, art, intelligence, poetry and the ability to overcome evil. Growing one of these outside the home was considered to bring these positive attributes to those within it.

The new lipstick is a larger variety with bigger leaves and flowers and can grow up to a metre. Euphorbias are succulents and have quite sharp thorns, although the thorns on lipstick are softer. An attractive plant ideally suited to a patio or protected area, lipstick will flower freely in late Winter, Spring and Summer with best results in well drained soil, and a drier environment in Winter. Prune lightly in Summer months if required. This plant has a very low water requirement once established and it pays to be careful not to over-water them.

Available at Oderings [www.oderings.co.nz](http://www.oderings.co.nz)



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](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship)*

Gold Coin Entry

ODERINGS  
GARDEN CENTRES

School  
Gardens  
Show 2016

presented by  
Canterbury Horticultural Society

11-13  
MARCH  
WOOLSTON CLUB  
Open daily  
from 10am