

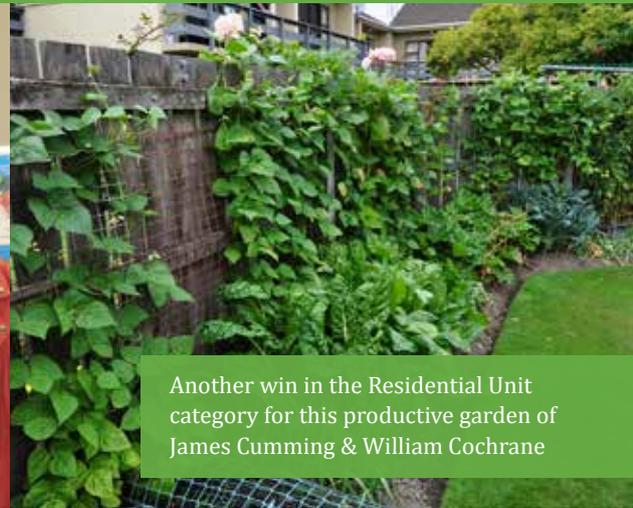


CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
 Newsletter No 224 May 2016
 e: office@chsgardens.co.nz
 t: (03) 366 6937
 CHS Centre: office hours 9am – 4pm
 www.chsgardens.co.nz
 facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety



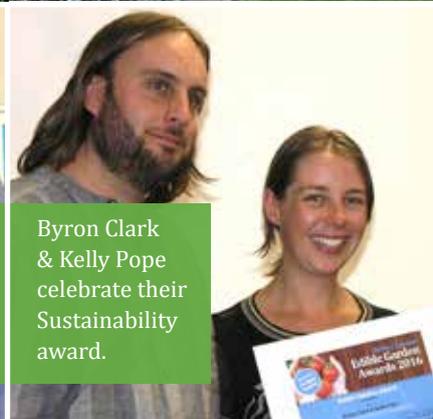
St Albans Uniting Parish Church celebrate their winners award for Community Garden (you can see their bountiful garden below).



Another win in the Residential Unit category for this productive garden of James Cumming & William Cochrane



Lois Flanagan delighted with her Residential House award presented by Alan Jolliffe.



Byron Clark & Kelly Pope celebrate their Sustainability award.

MAGIC MOSS MATINEES

June & July 2016

Wednesday 1 June 9.30am

On Wednesday 1 June and Wednesday 6 July we introduce Magic Moss Matinees, featuring two films both with a strong gardening theme.

The first, "Gardening with Soul" follows four seasons in the life of irresistible gardening nun Sister Loyola Galvin. The film unearths sage gems from the nonagenarian on everything from compost to Catholic Church sex abuse scandals. The cycles of Wellington's weather are charted via its influence on Loyola's Island Bay garden, from the 2011 snow to flax-drunk tui.

There will be plenty of time for bon-homie and cups of tea. Cost is \$5 per head and members are encouraged to bring friends and family. This will be a great chance to relive those golden childhood memories of popcorn, ice cream and hilarity at that "threepenny rush" matinees!

\$5 per head Morning tea included
 CHS Centre, South Hagley Park

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

Our usual monthly All About Gardening sessions will take a breather in June & July.

Edibles

What a celebration

The 2016 Shirley-Papanui Edible Garden Awards function attracted 65 guests, 48 of which were nominees, and friends and families of the nominees. The remainder were elected members, CHS judges (Michael Coulter and Neiel Drain) and presenters, members of the CHS and Council staff. A student photographer and tutor from Papanui High school also attended.

The overall winners were Jocelyn Wright (Residential House), James Cumming & William Cochrane (Residential Unit), McFarlane Park Kidsfirst Kindegarten (School or Early Learning Centre) and St Albans Uniting Parish Church (Community Garden).

CHS President Alan Jolliffe shared the presentation duties with Shirley-Papanui Community Board Chairman Mike Davidson. Both commented on how such awards strengthened community bonds. "It's all about sharing, having fun and producing great and nutritious food from your garden, however big or small it may be" observed Alan.

"We are not judging the gardens on their prettiness but their productivity" said CHS judge Neiel Drain. Michael Coulter observed that there were many repeat entrants, "and it's been good to see the considerable progress many have made since we first saw them in 2013 or 2014".

A number of special awards were introduced this year – "First Time Entrant" won by Clayton Wallwork, "Best Tomatoes" won by Clive Smith, "Best Yield" won by St Albans Uniting Parish Church and "Sustainability" won by CHS members Byron Clark and Kelly Pope.

Queen of the Castle

Dot Smith is our Mid-winter lunch guest speaker

Dot Smith describes herself as 'a woman's dream and a man's nightmare!' The exuberant 60-something, with bright pink flourishes in her hair, is the Grande Dame of the Riverstone complex, situated just north of Oamaru. It includes the award-winning restaurant, Riverstone Kitchen, Dot's giftware shops, oceans of organic vegetables, flower gardens and much more.



Dot and her husband Neil moved to Oamaru and created Riverstone over 30 years ago, when it was still 'a gravel pit'. Now, after years of hard yakka, they own five dairy farms running over 4000 cows. Green-fingered, clever and eccentric Dot is soon to become the queen of her own castle, a magnificent building project, set on a manmade island at Riverstone and complete with dungeon, drawbridge and towers.

Dot has written a book on her life and appeared in two 3rd Degree Television programs on building her dream.

Saturday 2 July 2016, 12 noon
Cashmere Club, Colombo Street
\$40 per person

Includes a 3-course lunch. pay bar available

Tickets available now

*Purchase via the CHS office or online at
www.chsgardens.co.nz*



ALL ABOUT GARDENING MAY

Overwintering Alpines

Tips for caring for your precious alpine treasures from Hamish Brown. Hamish is fanatical about getting to remote and obscure areas in the Southern Alps to discover and photograph our awesome native alpines.

Mother's Day Posies using chrysanthemums with Angeline Ward

*what's on
This
Month*

CHS CIRCLES

Chrysanthemum Circle
Monday 16 May 7.30pm

AGM - If anyone has any questions or problems re their chrysanthemums, email Michael by the Friday prior to the meeting and he will research these and attempt to answer and discuss them at the meeting.

Floral Art Circle
Thursday 19 May 1.30pm

CHS CIRCLES

Fruit & Vegetable Circle
Wednesday 25 May 6.30pm

AGM & Dinner

Please bring a meat, vegetable / salad dish or dessert to share and your own drink. Also, your own crockery & cutlery. Tea & coffee will be provided. Any suggestions for future speakers / topics for meetings will be very welcome.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT *Alan Jolliffe*



We have really entered late Summer, a period of unseasonably warm, dry weather occurring in Autumn. I think we have had one slight frost.

Last month we had the awards evening of the Shirley Papanui Edible Gardens. A wonderful evening of sharing ideas and of course presenting certificates.

Just past is the Autumn Garden Show which was held at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. This featured the National Chrysanthemum Show in the Ilex Room and a marquee on the lawn featuring 12 exhibits from various garden and horticultural organisations. This was one of our first partnership events with the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in recent times and will hopefully prove to be mutually beneficial.

Last month the Board approved our new Mission Statement. "Connecting people to the art, science and practice of gardening and horticulture." The key to this is connecting people - everybody we can reach and in every way we can reach them. Through shows, seminars, events, All About Gardening, workshops, Facebook and our website we aim to reach as many people as possible to share our collective knowledge with them.

You can help us do this by giving us lots of ideas about how to do this.

**Connecting people
to the art, science
and practice of
gardening and
horticulture.**

Mission Statement - 2016



Canterbury Horticultural Society

CHS Sponsors Ōtākaro Orchard Project

Support the Givealittle campaign 30 April - 8 May

Ōtākaro Orchard - Community Garden and Urban Food Hub - is intended to be a public space that produces food, hosts a social enterprise cafe, multiple event spaces and abundant opportunities for education. The vision is for a place where both locals and tourists gain knowledge and inspiration about sustainable food systems in practice.

For a number of strategic reasons the CHS has been actively involved in the planning and implementation of this project. Whilst there has been a significant number of "in kind" offers of support the "Givealittle" funding campaign started at the Prime Minister's opening is languishing at the moment, due in part to the lack of any activity on the site with the onset of Winter and the presence of contractors remodelling the surrounding area.

To this end, the Board has agreed to become a sponsor of the project and will match on a \$ for \$ basis all donations made to www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/otakaroorchard from Saturday 30 April (the opening day of the Autumn Garden Show) to Sunday 8 May. The extent of this offer is capped at a modest sum to prevent any financial blow out for the CHS and we have chosen to support the project in this way as a means of encouraging others to do so.

It would be great if there was a groundswell of CHS members to lead the way for other community organisations so please do all you can to give this campaign the fillip it needs right now! Members can help by emailing the Givealittle campaign link to friends, sharing the link on facebook or with other community or professional groups. Givealittle is New Zealand's first zero fees fundraising service and it makes even the littlest amount of money benefit a cause.



GARDEN CLUB REPS

Garden Club Reps
Tuesday 3 May 10am
PC Browne Room

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 19 May 3:45 - 5pm
Watling Room

RAMBLERS 2016

Tuesday 10 May 9.45am
Elmwood Park
Meet Heaton St, near Alister Ave
Tuesday 24 May 9.45am
Prebbleton
Meet on Blakes Rd near school
No walk if very wet. FREE
www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

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.

Register your interest online, at All About Gardening or via the CHS Office on tel: 366 6937

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS

With Michael Coulter

May is the busy month of the Autumn as Winter approaches there are many tasks in the garden to be completed before the cold weather arrives.

Leaves need to be collected and made into compost. Paths kept clean and treated for moss and lawns repaired and treated for weeds.

The planting of Spring bulbs and lillies should be completed and Winter flowering annuals kept well fed and weed free.

In the vegetable garden the old finished crops must be removed and can be composted. Unused ground should have green crops sown to help improve the soil for next season.

Any badly diseased plants must not be composted to avoid carrying the disease over to next season - or pest onto new crops.



Lynda Hallinan, cooking up a storm at the April AAG. We hope Lynda has inspired you all to get creative in the kitchen!

CHS Winter Speaker Series

Our Living Landscape - Plants of the East

WINTER
SPEAKER
SERIES.

Four highly qualified and experienced speakers present this series of stimulating talks culminating in the MJ Barnett Memorial Lecture. Talks start 7pm in the PC Browne Room, CHS Centre, 57 Riccarton Ave, South Hagley Park. *Light refreshments will be served.*

7pm Thursday 12 May



Trees from the Far East (Of Us): Why three conifers from California dominate our Plantation Forestry Industry

Charles Etherington

7pm Thursday 7 June



West meets East

Colin Meurk

7pm Thursday 14 July



Natures Rock Gardens - unique plants of the volcanic rock outcrops and coastal cliffs of Banks Peninsula

Di Carter

7pm Thursday 11 August



MJ Barnett Memorial Lecture

Natural Born Weed Killers: A Key Weapon for the War on Weeds

Lynley Hayes

FREE to CHS Members | \$5: Students | \$10 Non-members | Purchase online or from the office: office@chsgardens.co.nz or 366 6937

FUN WITH SUCCULENTS

Saturday 21 May 10am
CHS Centre, South Hagley Park

Get creative with succulents in this fun workshop run by CHS member Zoe West. Bring a container or containers of your choice. All other materials provided.

\$10 Members & Students
\$20 Non-Members

Book via the CHS office tel 366 6937 or online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Coprosma Pacific Sunset is a striking evergreen plant grown for its vivid red foliage with burgundy/ chocolate brown markings. This contrast plant is stunning in pots or the garden and works well in mass plantings. This versatile plant can also be used as a low hedging plant, reaching around 1m tall with an upright mounding habit. The intense colouring of this coprosma make it a real head turner. www.oderings.co.nz

BOTANIC GARDENS NEWS

Name the Botanic Gardens Bambina and win a \$100 voucher for the Ilex café. Visit Townend House, take a photo of you and the Bambina along with your choice of name. Post on Instagram with hashtag #nameourbambina and share with your friends. *Closes 15 May.*

BGANZ Open Day Sunday 29 May FREE
Come along for a behind-the-scenes tour of the 'Glasshouse' at the CBG. See propagation spaces, herbarium, library and talk to collection curators, park rangers and ecology experts. A special tour not to be missed!

Flower Garden

1. Cut back by two thirds chrysanthemums and dahlias as they finish flowering.
2. Give a side dressing of fertiliser to pansies, polyanthus, and primulas.
3. Give roses a clean up spray before leaf fall to control rust and black spot next season.
4. Cut back old leaves from hellebores to let flowers have room.
5. Keep gardens weed-free
6. Summer perennials may be lifted and divided now.
7. If the ground is still dry water any new planted trees and shrubs

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

1. Sow some broad beans
2. Keep leeks weed free as they do not like to get overcrowded.
3. Give leeks a side dressing of fertiliser
4. Sow onions to be transplanted later
5. Prepare ground for planting garlic.
6. Remove diseased and mummified fruit from fruit trees and put in rubbish bins to stop disease carry-over.
7. Discard old fruiting canes from berry fruits
8. Later in the month strawberries can be planted.

Lawns

1. While grass is still growing mow each week and catch the grass.
2. Repair any damaged areas by top dressing with instant turf.
3. Any areas with moss treat and then improve aeration of the soil.
4. Treat for grass grub before the hard frosts start if you see signs of infestation.

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

Amuri Garden Tours

& The Christmas Country Fête, Culverden

Our Amuri Garden Tour is an overnight tour taking place on Thursday 27 October.

As well as discovering eight local gardens in the Amuri Basin - from formal and refined to extensive and colourful we enjoy Culverden's iconic Christmas Country Fête .

Leslie Hills Garden *Rutherford Family*

The Rutherford family have owned this beautiful piece of land at Leslie Hills since 1860. In 1981 the current owners, David and Fizz Rutherford moved into what was a rather neglected homestead and garden. They set about restoring the house and garden and many years and much effort later can be proud of their efforts.

The structure of the garden, and plantings by ancestors, over 160 years, has provided a number of magnificent heritage trees creating a wonderful backdrop for Fizz and David's plantings.

When they arrived the garden had two different areas divided by hedges and farm tracks. One half of the garden, with the original home site, still has the original rose walk, walnut trees, hazelnuts and fruit trees. The second half was created when in 1900, the



time of the wool boom, David's grandfather commissioned the England Brothers to design the present homestead. Subsequently the woolshed and yards were moved to where they are today to make way for the homestead to be built. The Garden for this house was designed by Alfred Buxton with a sweeping drive, wooden gates, and an assortment of wonderful trees.

With the help of Robert Watson, David and Fizz added to the garden by putting in a pond and their own plantings of oaks, rhododendrons and some mass plantings of begonia and euphorbia. By increasing the lawn area they created a park like setting with long, beautiful vistas.

This beautiful property is a real highlight of the tour, and is sure to impress lovers of history and gardens alike.

Bookings are coming in steadily for our **WOW® World of WearableArt** tour. Don't miss out on this memorable shortbreak. *Book now*

TOUR DIARY



Alexandra Blossom Festival
Thursday 22 September 2016
In conjunction with Travel To You
Brochure & costs available soon



WOW® World of WearableArt - Wellington
Friday 7 - Sunday 9 October
Premium show tickets, 4½ star accommodation, Ruth Pretty catering, return airfares with Air NZ.
Book now: \$1199 \$235 single supplement



Amuri Garden Tours
Thursday 27 October - Overnight
Enjoy delicious local fare and handicrafts at the Culverden fête before exploring a private garden in the unique alpine destination of Hanmer Springs and surrounds. **Brochure available. Book now: \$499**



Auckland Flower Show & Waiheke Island
Short Break - 23 - 26 November
Register your interest now for a chance to explore Auckland's first flower show post Ellerslie.

WHERE IN THE WORLD *Would you like to go with the CHS?*

- West Coast South Island**
February 2017
- Norfolk Island**
March 2017
- UK/Chelsea Flower Show & Keukenhof Gardens**
Amsterdam May 2017
- Queensland Sunshine Coast**
August 2017
- Blooming Tasmania**
Spring Garden Tour - September 2017

Your Details

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: Please send me a brochure on the tours I have selected.

Some other places I would like to visit are: _____

Please tear off and return to the CHS or send an email to gail@chsgardens.co.nz



Members of the Month

Phil & Linda Ducker

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

Phil was born in Rotherham, Yorkshire in the middle of the Second World War blitz on Sheffield. He spent his childhood living in the town centre in a terraced house that had no garden. His wife Linda was born in Willersley Castle, Derbyshire. Her mother lived in London and was evacuated to a safer place to give birth during the war. Her parents left London after the war and eventually bought a small farm in the country where she spent her childhood.

Where do you live now?

They live on six and a half acres of land in Halswell and have been married for 50 years.



What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

Phil's interest in gardening really began after they bought their bare land in Halswell. One Christmas their young children bought Phil a book on no-dig compost gardening by W.E. Shewell-Cooper. This aroused his interest in organic gardening. He then joined Good Gardeners' Association after a visit to Christchurch by Dr Shewell-Cooper in 1980. He has been involved in that organisation since then, currently as Chairman. Phil was also influenced by Bob Crowder and his work at the Biological Husbandry Unit at Lincoln College. He developed a vegetable garden and made compost. Later he and Linda became interested in developing an ornamental garden and orchard. They read many books and started to landscape the garden.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

They are passionate about growing their own food organically. They are now retired and can devote more time to their garden.

What's your favourite plant and why?

They don't have any one plant that is a favourite. They love the different seasons – Bluebells, Daffodils, Magnolias, etc in Spring. Summer brings the joy of the perennial border and roses. Autumn brings that wonderful change in the colour of leaves. Winter is a time to walk round the garden and enjoy witch hazels, hellebores, etc and the tracery of the branches of the deciduous trees.

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

Their most challenging and rewarding gardening project was designing the large garden. The combination of Phil's building skills and Linda's knowledge of plants and design has led to the



garden expanded by one project or another. The first was a small walled vegetable garden. Then to enhance this project they decided to build two gazebo type buildings in old brick with shingle roofs. Then they constructed a large brick arch to link different areas of the garden and built bridges over a wetland

area on the property.

Their current project (named "Phil's folly" following the tradition on UK estates) is a six metre high tower constructed in old bricks, with Oamaru stone quoins and tapestry windows. It has no specific purpose – just a building which enhances their garden environment. (see photo bottom left)

On writing down this list of projects they were surprised by the number as they have never made a list. All of them have been achieved, come rain or shine, with a fair amount of blood, sweat and tears. They have cleaned thousands of bricks, mixed tons of concrete and have spent countless hours working on their shared hobby. They are now almost ready to fly the flag – the white rose of York – on top of the tower.

When did you join the CHS and why?

They joined the Fruit & Vegetable circle over 20 years ago to exchange ideas with like minded people. Phil is a past president of



the Circle. He served on the Management Committee of the CHS for several years. They have enjoyed exhibiting at many CHS shows the most memorable being the Mona Vale 2000 show and also two Ellerslie Flower Shows for the CHS.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

They would like to see the CHS seriously considering having a real home to be proud of. Phil says "The building would have good design, (not a square glass box). A garden of excellence to surround the building designed to be educational and importantly to a scale that people can relate to. We desperately need something like this in our garden city to foster an interest in gardening for future generations. In order to make my dream turn into reality is there a philanthropist out there with a million or two to spare so that we could begin?"



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