



## Merry Christmas & Happy Gardening

The CHS Office will close on **Wednesday 21 December at 4pm** and reopen **Monday 16 January 2017 at 9am**.

For any gardening queries or advice over the holiday period refer to our online facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk) which will be monitored over that time.

From all the staff and Board members, have a wonderful and safe Christmas, and enjoy your beautiful gardens and harvest.



## AAG 2017 - STOP PRESS

**Major changes afoot here in both venue and timing!** In 2017 All About Gardening will be held at the Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place off Barbadoes St and it will be held on the **first Monday evening and Tuesday morning of the month** AND will be free to CHS members!

## February AAG

**Monday 6th 7pm & Tuesday 7th 9.45am**

*Arrival Cuppa - self serve tea and coffee available for members from 30 minutes prior to the meeting.*

**Dr Colin Meurk** is our main speaker for both Waitangi day and the following day with **Colourful Native Plants for the Garden**.

Also in the programme: **From Your Gardens and this month's Tips and Tasks** with Michael, Dave and Alan and **Practical Sessions and workstations**.

**Interactive Session** on planting techniques.

**Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place**  
**Plenty of Parking available**

*Free to CHS Members, \$5 Non-members*  
*Includes tea, coffee and refreshments*

what's on  
**Feb**  
**2017**

## From the President Season's Greetings



The A & P Show is still the great annual event it always was.

This year the CHS had a wonderful partnership with the A & P Association thanks to the work of Board member Rachel Vogan. Rachel designed and coordinated, along with Dave Adams and Michael Coulter, all our activities at the Show which were wonderful.

This was one of our largest displays for many years at the Show and it generated a lot of interest with rural people, and Christchurch people both young and old. It was great to talk to them all about gardening, horticulture, fresh food and of course the CHS. Thanks to the team.

As the year draws to a close it is timely to thank everyone for the tremendous amount of work done over the last 12 months and of course the planning that is going on for next year. These activities don't just happen. It takes a lot of hard work and time to get it right and make everything work.

Soon we hope to have our programme for 2017. It looks exciting and will involve some new activities. We are looking forward to it and I hope you are too.

With the Summer holidays soon to be upon us take some time out to enjoy the garden or our wonderful outdoors, meet up with family and friends and generally have a lovely time.

We will also be thinking about our friends and others affected by the latest earthquakes in the northern South Island and Wellington.

Seasons greeting to you all. **Alan Jolliffe** President

# Gazania Wild

Bring some WOW factor to your garden this Christmas

The reaction when people see the Gazania Wild series is WOW! We all know and love gazanias for a hot and dry area in gardens or pots, but the huge flower size, and bold clarity of colour in this series is a serious show stopper. This easy-to-grow, hybrid treasure is ideal for pots, borders or rockeries and available in colours of orange, red, vanilla or yellow.



**ODERINGS**  
GARDEN CENTRES

what's on  
**this**  
month

## ALL ABOUT GARDENING DECEMBER

Tuesday 6th 7pm & Wednesday 7th 9.45am

**From Your Gardens:** Peas and lilies. Success and problem plants are equally welcome!

**All about Lilies** The lily society will be talking lilies and bringing some plants (currently in bud) for sale. *Bring some cash for purchasing.*

**Christmas Kokedama** with Allan Paterson  
*Christmas themed refreshments to enjoy*

## CHS CIRCLES

**Chrysanthemum**

**Monday 12 December 7pm**

183 Weston Road, St Albans  
Dinner at Susan & Michael Coulters  
Bring a small festive plate for supper to share.

**Monday 16 January 7.30pm**

Watling Lounge, CHS Centre  
Dis budding and bud securing earlyies. Pest management.

## CHS CIRCLES

**Floral Art**

**Thursday 16 February 2017 1.30pm**

Watling Lounge, CHS Centre  
Plant Exchange - bring one - buy one

**Fruit & Vegetable**

No December Meeting

**Saturday 21 January 2017 4.30pm onwards**

BBQ at Phil & Linda Duckers  
85 Sutherlands Road

**Wednesday 25 January 7.30pm**

Sydenham Room, South Library

## MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*



December is the start of the Summer weather and plants are now well into their rapid growth with many of the Spring-planted crops ready for harvest. Many of the pest and diseases that attack our plants will also begin to appear so we will need to take action to mitigate the damage that may be caused by these problems. This time of the year is also holiday time for many of us so plans will need to be in place to ensure that our plants are not neglected while we are away. December is also an important time for planting and sowing many of the Winter crops that we will need later in the year. From now on I enjoy the harvesting of fresh fruit and berries, the first of the tomatoes and all the salad greens straight from the garden.

### Flower Garden

1. Keep Summer annuals weed free and well watered.
2. Dead head roses and treat for pest and diseases.
3. Place supports around perennials, dahlias and chrysanthemums before they get too tall.
4. Mulch around gardens that have not been done.
5. Start to sow seeds of Winter flowering annuals.

### Fruit & Vegetable Garden

1. Keep the garden well watered so that plants are not stressed.
2. Summer prune excess growth on pip

fruit trees.

3. Thin out fruit on pip and stone fruit to give good size and quality fruit at harvest.
4. Treat where needed for pest and disease.
5. Pick beans and peas while they are at their best and to encourage more cropping.
6. Remove lower leaves off tomatoes to allow more light on fruit to help ripen.

### Lawns

1. Water lawns to keep the grass growing.
2. Do not cut the grass too low.
3. Treat for grass grub.
4. Do not compost the grass clippings if lawn has been treated for weeds.

# Oderings School Garden Show

*Fantastic line up of schools confirmed for 2017*

Once again Oderings have become the major sponsor for the School Garden Show for 2017. The Oderings School Garden Show 2017 will be held at The Woolston Club from the 10th to the 12th of March.

Organisation is well underway with 13 schools having confirmed their participation. Our maximum is for 14 schools so there is only one space left.

The schools that have confirmed are Sumner, Shirley Intermediate,

Opawa, West Spreydon, St Albans Catholic, St Albans Primary, Westburn, Oaklands, Elmwood Intermediate, Sockburn, West Melton, Waitakiri and Ashgrove.

The theme for next year is "Once Upon a Time" where the children can build their garden around a favourite traditional story, write their own story based on something that happened at their school or tell any story that means something to their particular situation. From early (secret) information there are some very interesting interpretations of the theme.

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

*Test your festive knowledge!*

How do you say Merry Christmas in the following languages?

1. Maori
2. Samoan
3. Dutch
4. Mandarin
5. French

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



## GARDEN CLUB REPS

*Tuesday 6 December 10am*  
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

## JUNIOR GARDENERS

*Thursday 15 December 3:45 - 5pm*  
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre

## RAMBLERS 2016/17

*Tuesday 13 December 9.45am*  
Sumner Meet at Clock Tower on Scarborough Park, Esplanade. *Bring a picnic morning tea*

*Tuesday 14 February 9.45am*  
Crofton Meet cnr Crofton and Sawyers Arms Rd.

No walk if wet. FREE

**2017 Programme out now.** Download from: [www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers)

## CHRISTMAS KOKEDAMA & TERRARIUMS

*Sat 3 & Sun 4 December 9.30 - 11.30am*

A chance to create your very own lasting Christmas decorations. Kokedama and terrariums using sphagnum moss sourced from the West Coast and locally grown poinsettia.

Tickets \$50, all materials provided  
Terra Viva, 234 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

Purchase online at [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz) or via the CHS office tel: 366 6937

## CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP *with the Floral Art Circle*

*Wednesday 7 December 5pm - 7pm*  
CHS Centre, South Hagley Park

The Floral Art Circle has regrouped to present a workshop for anyone interested in learning how to create a beautiful table centre or runner for Christmas.

All welcome, previous Floral Art members, anyone interested in joining the group and anyone who wants to do something special for their Christmas table.

**Tickets \$20 Members, \$25 Non-members**  
Most materials and light refreshments included.

Purchase online at [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz) or via the CHS office. Email: [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz) tel: 366 6937. **Or pay at the door on the day!**



# Amuri Garden Tour Report

By Denis & Elizabeth Peacock

The challenge of being at the CHS by 7:15am on Thursday 27 October was well worth the effort. Gail led us all into our comfy coach and introduced us to our very competent driver John, who only lost us once.

We stopped at Woodend to pick up our last two passengers before heading on to Culverden where "Cold Stream" was our first garden. A beautiful big country garden where our host Vicky served us a huge country morning tea including yummy carrot cup cakes.

On to the Culverden Country Fete set up in another lovely big garden with heaps of retail therapy. Here we had a most enjoyable buffet lunch before moving on to the Heritage Hanmer Lodge villas. After check in we visited Highgate, a delightful compact garden in Hanmer hidden from the road but once inside the gate a wonderful treasure. A leisurely stroll took us



back to the lodge for dinner and bed.

Day two began with a visit to Monte Alto, a hilly alpine rock garden on the banks of a river which is owned and worked by two of the Rutherfords, both over 90. This is a real gardener's garden full of a delightful mixture of flowers and trees. A privilege to be there.

Next port of call was the historic Lesley Hills station run by Fizz Rutherford. This was one of the highlights of the trip. A beautiful, extensive and very well maintained family property, where we were once again treated to morning tea.

"Polo Hill Peony Nursery" followed where several of us bought peony plants. This was a garden under development with much already achieved. Their hard work was well worth the effort taken.

## TOUR DIARY 2017



### Summer Gardens Awards Tour

Wednesday 8 February 2017 1pm -4pm

Car pool, no cost. Details to be advised at All About Gardening and February newsletter.



### Dunedin & Central Otago, Autumn Short Break

Late April 2017

(Register your interest to be sent details)



Hampton Court Palace Flower Show & England's Castles, Manors & Gardens June / July 2017. (Register your interest)



### Blooming Tasmania Flower & Garden Show

Launceston, Tasmania

Longer Break - 19 - 28 September 2017



### Amuri Garden Tour & Culverden Fête

26-27 October 2017



### Members' Spring Garden Visits

Late October & November 2017



A delicious boxed lunch was ready for us at our fourth call, "Rhodo Direct Garden and Nursery". The large garden was a mass of colour as it was full of Rhododendrons in full bloom. Colour combinations amazing. The bus lockers were nearly full with all the plants bought here!

Garden number five was "Waihui" in Rotherham where hosts Tom and Meg gave us a tour of their impressive property. This is a garden full of roses which were sadly not yet in bloom but so healthy.

"Loch Levin Garden and Nursery" again provided retail therapy. An interesting, diverse garden of differing styles and plantings.

A thoroughly enjoyable trip with congratulations to Gail for her immaculate organisation and care.

We sincerely hope that none of these beautiful properties and hospitable people have been too badly affected by nature's latest cruel shakes. Our thoughts are with you all.

**Denis & Elizabeth**

**Post script:** Sadly "Leslie Hills" Homestead (pictured in the circle above) was badly damaged, possibly beyond repair, during the Kaikoura earthquake on Sunday 13 November.

*How blessed were we with the timing of both WOW & Amuri Gardens Tours.*





## Show Business

For this year's show the CHS agreed to beautify key areas and to provide a horticultural showpiece which would engage and educate visitors. Over 500 plants were grown specifically for this purpose.

The "From the paddock to the plate" display was in the Food and Wine marquee. As leader of the project it was amazing to feel and see the energy, passion and hype that creating our show garden had on those involved. Show business has an infectious energy, which I would love to bottle.

The backdrop of the garden was Flagpole Station, the home of the A & P Show president Warwick James and his first lady CeCe James. Anchored in the centre of the garden were two life-like mannequins replicating the leading couple and brilliantly created by Maggie Croy.

A team of CHS floral artists led by Elizabeth Peacock created a series of floral statement pieces which towered over show goers, adding to the sense of theatre to key focal areas.

The colours of the blooms matched the landscape and the cattle that graze on the paddocks of Flagpole. Blended into the garden were strong floral elements, the scent of Dianthus Memories had show goers enchanted, as did Rose Bright as a Button which was in full bloom.

The talk of the garden where the silver birch planters hand-made by local builder David Cammock over many hours with a chainsaw cutting out the centres of birch logs to create these planters which many punters wanted to take home.

*Rachel Vogan*

## HERITAGE ROSE PRUNING WORKSHOP

*Saturday 10 December 10am*

The CHS has partnered with Ferrymead Heritage Park to present a free Heritage Rose Pruning demonstration led by Alan Jolliffe. Taking place on-site in the Addington Workshop Memorial Garden, located inside Ferrymead, it will cover the basics of pruning these unique blooms.

*Free event, rain or shine. No registration required, just turn up with your secateurs*

## NZ LILY SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

*Saturday 7 January 2pm - 5pm*

*Sunday 8 January 9am - 4pm*

The Show includes rare and unusual lilies, sales of potted lilies, lily seed, and other plants.

Riccarton Racecourse  
Follow the flags - excellent parking.

Tickets \$5, children under 12 free  
Visit [www.nzlilies.org.nz](http://www.nzlilies.org.nz) for more information



## A & P Show 2016



# Member of the Month

Elizabeth Peacock

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

I was born and raised in Christchurch with 2 brothers on a 1/4 acre in Riccarton and a bach my father built at Woodend Beach. My primary school days were spent at Rangi Ruru and my secondary years at Christchurch Girls High. I began ballet dancing at 4 continuing until at 17 I realised I was never going to grow to the 5 foot 4 inches needed to audition for the Royal New Zealand Ballet. I turned to Ballroom which I loved, attaining Exhibition Star and partnering my teacher Syd Hollis, dancing floor shows at many Balls. It was here I met my husband Denis, marrying in 1962. Together we danced in a 6 part TV Show, Come Dancing, the first of its kind in New Zealand.

I trained as a Primary School teacher and taught for 6 years before the arrival of our three boys when I became a stay-at-home mother to enjoy their early years. When the boys were all at school, I worked as relief teacher at several local schools.

For 12 years I was the Cake Decorator for the Old Orchard Catering Firm which meant I could work from home doing something creative, satisfying and enjoyable. Then I worked for Every Educaid as a sales rep and later for Wendy Pye Ltd, dealing with the Sunshine Books she published. I became known to the schools I visited as the "Sunshine Lady". My territory covered 250 schools from the Waitaki to Nelson and my office (car) had a different view every day.

## Where do you live now?

Denis and I still live in Christchurch in our second home in Avonhead, but our family are now spread from Christchurch to Auckland to Montreal.

## What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

My parents had a magnificent vegetable garden and a love of roses which my paternal grandfather grew commercially. I was given my first garden to maintain when I was about 8 or 9. My maternal grandparents also were keen gardeners with one of my grandmother's favourite sayings being "a house is not a home if there are no flowers in it." A major contribution to my love of floral arrangement and of growing flowers to pick.



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

Maintaining and planning our home garden to share what can be achieved on a small section. I am a volunteer working on the Alhambra Garden in New Regent Street and I lead the Ramblers walk twice a month.

## What's your favourite plant and why?

I have an inherited love of roses, but I am fascinated by the colour combinations and variegations found on hostas and heuchera.

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

My most enjoyable and challenging projects have been the years I have spent on the Garden City Trust as the CHS Representative working with the Garden Clubs to produce some outstanding exhibits for the Festival of Flowers. I have been humbled to receive both a Civic Award from the Christchurch City Council and a Silver Service Award from the CHS for my efforts.

## When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined the CHS in the late 1990's when I became the rep for the Avonhead Garden Club. When I became President of the Garden Club Reps shortly after, I also became a Board member. Subsequently I have been honoured to be elected President of the Society twice, a huge learning curve both times!

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

My greatest wish for the Society's future is to see us settled into new premises where parking is no longer an issue and to see our membership rise with many more younger people joining to enjoy the fellowship, friendship and learning that I have experienced.

## STOP PRESS!

### NZ vs Bangladesh Test Match & NZ vs South Africa ODI

New Zealand Cricket has hired the whole complex for the dates of **19 -25 January** and **21-23 February**.

Although the office will remain open during these periods there will be tight security on the entry points to Hagley Oval and we recommend that members try and avoid the need to visit the office during this time.

## SUMMER GARDEN AWARDS 2017

Our 2017 Summer Garden Awards are supported by Oderings Garden Centres with over \$1,500 of garden vouchers to be won. Open to everyone and with plenty of categories to suit all types of gardens we hope you will participate!

Collect an entry form from the CHS office early December, fill out one online or download one from our website [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz). Entries close **Wednesday 1 February**. Judging takes place on Sunday 5 February 2017.



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 Base 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)*