



Creative Kokedama

*Not just talking about gardening,
doing it!*



what's on
next
month

March 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.

Susan Sanders, Christchurch Botanic Gardens Collection Curator is our main speaker for March. She will be talking about fuchsias.

Michael Coulter follows with discussion on standardising chrysanthemums and planting for Spring colour.

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

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Plenty of Parking available

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

AAG 2017

Don't forget that All About Gardening is now being held at the Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place off Barbadoes St, on the **first Monday evening and Tuesday morning of the month** AND is free to CHS members!

From the President

2017 an exciting year for the CHS

With the first month of the year over and everyone heading back to school and work it is time to plan all the things we want to do in 2017. The CHS is no different except we have been planning for some time to make this an exciting and fulfilling year for our members and the gardening community.

Our programme is due to be published shortly and you will see it is bigger than last year and full of interesting activities.

All About Gardening is shifting location to the Bridge Club in Nova Place just off Barbadoes Street. Buses pass nearby and there is better car parking for all. Monday night is the new night for AAG followed by Tuesday morning to provide the best car parking we can. It is a great venue so join us there. It is FREE for members this year! Bring a friend.

We are continuing all our programmes with over 100 activities to look forward to and participate in!

The Board and I look forward to meeting you at these events.
Alan Jolliffe

Seminars & Workshops

Winter Speaker Series

Margaret Watling Floral Extravaganza

Certificate Courses

All About Gardening

Gardening Demonstrations

Orchards in Schools

Junior Gardeners

Oderings School Gardens Show

Ramblers

Members' Social Events

AGM & Awards Night

Terra Viva Autumn Garden Show

Spring Show

Swan Plants

Gardening for kids of all ages

Next month the third Oderings School Garden Show opens. Here at Oderings we can't wait to see what wonderful creations will emerge from each primary school.

Swan plants are in hot demand this Summer, everyone wants the happiness of watching a caterpillar turning into a beautiful butterfly especially children, there's something so fascinating about it and not to mention is very educational as well.

There are two types of swan plants available at Oderings, swan plant 'asclepias physocarpa' and swan plant silky.

Silky has stunning red, gold and deep scarlet flowers which look great in flower arrangements. The other variety has amazing swan like seed pods which develop at full maturity. They are fun for children to float on ponds, and again educational.

Swan plants are relatively fast growing and do best in full sun and a well-drained position. They can get to 2 metres tall, and to help protect those caterpillar are best planted in a sheltered spot.

The speed in which Caterpillars munch through the plants is often underestimated.

It takes them no time at all so our top tip is to save a few plants. Plant them away from the caterpillar covered plants and throw a net over the top to prevent butterflies from laying on them. This way you'll have a constant source of food and the caterpillars won't starve.

Please be careful though especially with children as swan plants are poisonous if ingested, so it's a good idea to get kids to wear gloves and supervise them.



what's on this month

AAG FEBRUARY

Monday 6th 7pm & Tuesday 7th 9.45am
Arrival Cuppa - self serve 30 minutes prior

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

Kowhai Thompson - Landscape planner and grower of natives - will talk about her passion for NZ myrtle and have plants for sale.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Free to CHS Members, \$5 Non-members
Includes tea, coffee and refreshments

CHS CIRCLES

Chrysanthemum
Monday 20 February 7pm
11 Ruakaka Street

David & Robyn Purcell's - Bring something for a pot-luck dinner. General cultural notes, pest control and bud securing of lates.

CHS CIRCLES

Floral Art
Thursday 16 February 2017 1.30pm
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre

Fruit & Vegetable
Wednesday 22 February 7.30pm
Upper Riccarton Library
Speaker to be confirmed


Home & Garden
AUTUMN GARDEN SHOW

Celebrating Autumn
vibrant flowers & plants from alpinas to bosaal
in association with
The National Chrysanthemum Show



29 & 30 APRIL 2017
Saturday & Sunday 10am - 5pm



jointly presented by
Canterbury Horticultural Society
& Christchurch City Council Botanic Gardens
100 Rangi, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Christchurch
Botanic Gardens
Te Māra Raukōwhiri
100 Rangiora

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS with Michael Coulter



January has been a month of real challenges in the garden this Summer with winds, hot days followed by cool days and some rain. Despite this I have had plenty of good growth and fruit to harvest although some plants are running a little later than usual.

Much of the work to be done in the garden is around maintenance; weeding, watering and Summer pruning.

My crops of strawberries and raspberries have been very good and I have been able to make plenty of jam as well having plenty to eat and share. As I write this I am looking at my apricot tree which is laden with fruit, checking each day as to when they will be ripe enough to pick.

The dwarf peach tree gave me a yield of about 10 kg. A bit small but very good flavour, I did thin the fruit but I think that I should have thinned out more, must remember this for next year.

As I did not plant all my vegetable plots at the one time this year I have a much better constant supply. The tomatoes are ripening now so plenty of pulp is being made and frozen for the Winter.

Warm fuzzies all around

Buy, Sell, Exchange! Car Boot Sale



In December last, President Alan Jolliffe, welcomed friends to our first New Members/ Volunteers combined "meet and greet" night.

The quiz based on plants from the Organising Committee's gardens was an enjoyable way to interact with each other.

Plants were distributed to our volunteers as a thank-you, followed by a light finger-food supper. There was a pleasant, warm atmosphere to the function which set the tone for future similar events.



The CHS will be holding a Car Boot Sale on the morning of **Saturday 25 March** in the Christchurch Bridge Club car park. It will take the form of a "buy, sell and exchange" and will be open only to our and the Bridge Club members with a focus on swapping plants, pots etc. in good condition.

There will be plenty of car spaces available, simply drive, park then open your boot and begin to bargain! Don't worry if you have nothing to sell or exchange, just bring along some cash and take a stroll along the open boots.



Further details will be available at All About Gardening and in the March newsletter

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 7 February 12 - 1pm
Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 16 February 3:45 - 5pm
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre

RAMBLERS 2017

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

Tuesday 24 February 9.45am
Shirley Meet Fairway Reserve, Fairway Drive (off Lake Terrace Rd).

No walk if wet. FREE

2017 Programme available online

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

ODERINGS SCHOOL GARDENS SHOW

Friday 10 March - Sunday 12 March from 10am

Experience "Once Upon a Time..." from participating schools, Sumner, Shirley Intermediate, Opawa, West Spreydon, St Albans Catholic, St Albans Primary, Westburn, Oaklands, Elmwood Intermediate, Sockburn, West Melton, Waitakiri and Ashgrove.

The Woolston Club, 43 Hargood Street
Cafe open, plenty of parking
Gold coin entry

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

1. Lift and dry off garlic
2. After stone fruit has been picked, prune the trees to encourage new growth for next season's fruit
3. Check pip fruit for pest and diseases and treat as needed
4. Continue planting and sowing crops as ground becomes available
5. Plant leeks and give plenty of fertiliser and water.
6. Watch out for pests on the outside of tomatoes and potatoes and treat to prevent infestation
7. Water well to keep plants growing

8. Remove spent crop residue as this takes up room and can be a source of pests and diseases

Lawns

1. Water and feed lawns to keep them active
2. I have seen some grass grub beetles flying so now is the time to treat the lawn
3. Mow regularly
4. Watch out for brown patches which may be a fungal infection and treat if needed

Flower Garden

1. Water regularly to keep plants growing
2. Dead head annuals and perennials to encourage flowering
3. Prune roses as flowering flush finishes to encourage more flowers
4. Keep weeds down before they seed
5. Lift daffodil bulbs and store in a cool, dark dry place
6. Sow seeds of winter annuals like pansy, poppies and violas
7. Prune back any excessive growth on trees and shrubs that may be over paths etc...

Alhambra Gardens

Before, during & after!



The CHS "Life in Vacant Spaces (LIVS)" project which we called Alhambra Gardens situated on the corner of New Regent and Armagh Streets has been decommissioned. The Trust which administered the scheme advised us that it was very likely that the owner of the site would require it to be cleared early in the new year to be ready for a new building. At the same time the

Otakaro Orchard site was in need of a temporary, transitional garden before work on the full blown orchard and building gets underway.

Interestingly it was the "oldies" (with a little help from some UK Barmy Army members) who established the garden in December 2013 and the "youngies" involved in the Otakaro Orchard project

who dis-established it in December 2016. Finally a quote from LIVS Director Jane Gregg,

"Thanks very much for the great project you have facilitated on that site. It is one of my absolute favourites and a real credit to you and your people at the Horticultural Society."

WAITANGI DAY QUIZ

What did the Maori use the following plants for?

1. Raupo (*name three uses*)
2. Poroporo
3. Harakeke
4. Totara
5. Aruhe

Answers online: www.chsgardens.co.nz



AUTUMN GARDEN SHOW

Sponsored by Terra Viva

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 April 10am - 5pm

Ilex Room & Marquee, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Jointly presented by Canterbury Horticultural Society and Christchurch City Council Botanic Gardens. Great event for the whole family, incorporates the National Chrysanthemum Show.

Free Entry



Meal Appeal

Amuri Earthquake



Two weeks before the devastating earthquake in Kaikoura and surrounding areas the CHS hosted a very successful tour to the Amuri district led by tour manager Gail Scrivener. The tour party received wonderful hospitality from the garden owners.

Following the earthquake Gail became aware of a need in the area for help with providing fresh food and prepared meals and generously instigated a meal appeal to CHS members to help this badly affected area.

To all CHS members, Garden Club members and friends.

On the 20th December Gwen Mitchell and I delivered boxes of food, groceries, baking treats and over 120 prepared meals to Marina Shearer, the Waiiau coordinator for the community earthquake effort.

They were overwhelmed and extremely grateful for all our generosity and the lengths people went to "make a difference", especially at Christmas time.

I personally wish to thank everyone for supporting this project. Without your

involvement and generous donations I could not have achieved this momentous task! Gwen and I had the pleasure of personally delivering treats to several homes and seeing the delight on the faces of two 90+ year olds was a joy to behold. Convincing them we didn't need to stay for lunch - or share the meals we had just delivered took some persuading though! Once again, my sincere thanks and best wishes to you all for supporting me in this endeavour. *Gail Scrivener*



TOUR DIARY 2017



Summer Gardens Awards Tour
Wednesday 8 February 1pm -4pm
Car pool, no cost. Details to be advised at February All About Gardening (Tues)



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



Share Your Garden
Member's Summer Garden Visits
Thursday 23 February 1pm
Jo Snell & Di Madgin. \$10 pp, register at the office



Blooming Tasmania Flower & Garden Show
Launceston, Tasmania
Longer Break - 19 - 28 September 2017



Dunedin & Central Otago, Autumn Short Break
Late April 2017 (Register your interest now)



Members' Spring Garden Visits
Late October & November 2017

AUCKLAND AT ITS BEST & WAIHEKE ISLAND *Tour Review, Gail Scrivener*

The fittingly named "Auckland at its Best" short break last November exceeded the expectations of all participants, with first class coach transport, excellent accommodation and diverse dining experiences.

On our first day we visited Birthday Hill, Huntingwood and Ayrli's Gardens, with Pinelee, A'La Fois, Mincher and Totara Waters the following day. Each garden was very beautiful, but different from each other, varying from traditional, formal, tropical, large and small with stunning vistas and surrounding scenery.

All of our hosts were generous with their time in sharing their stories and respective plant knowledge.

Our day trip to Waiheke Island was amazing! Beginning with the short smooth

ferry ride to Matiatia where our day commenced with a scenic drive through Church Bay Estate then a visit to Mudbrick Vineyard for a tour with the head gardener followed by a delicious morning tea. We then visited Sacred Blessing Sanctuary garden located in Enclosure Bay on the northern side of Waiheke, a one acre garden surrounded on two sides by McKenzie Reserve, a 12 acre regenerating native reserve. The garden was established ten years ago, however over the last two years it has been extensively remodelled to include hard landscaping from rock that is unique to Waiheke. Also added is a collection of Paul Dibble bronze sculptures. We were guided around these amazing gardens and learned about Waiheke's unique growing conditions, exotic plants and extensive range of herbs and flowers.

This stunning garden totally wowed us all. We then continued on to Rangihoua Estate where the first olive oil in the North Island was produced. Lunch was enjoyed at Batch Vineyard, the highest vineyard on Waiheke Island, with spectacular 360 degree views over the island and beyond to the Gulf islands.



Our final day included a trip to Devonport to visit the Eden Garden, Winter and Vertumnus Gardens.

Member of the Month

Gail Scrivener

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

I was born, raised and educated in Christchurch.

On leaving high school I entered the travel industry and was fortunate to guide for a variety of interest groups and travel extensively throughout the world. Later I had the privilege of being manager of PGG Travel, Focus Travel, AA Travel Hereford Street and eventually my own travel broking business.

Where do you live now?

I currently live in Tai Tapu; in the Selwyn District on a one acre property which was once the original site of the old Tai Tapu Butter Company.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

At the young age of 13 and living on a large suburban section I enjoyed looking after the flower garden, keeping it neat, weeded and watered and generally helping my dad in all aspects of gardening.

My aunt also had an influence on my gardening interests. She was a keen gardener and won many awards for her garden in Memorial Avenue.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

I am currently the President of the Springston Evening Garden Club for a fourth term, having acted in the secretary and treasurer roles as well.

As the tour manager of the CHS, having taken over the role from Freda Hunter in 2013, I enjoy the challenge of creating a horticulture interest/garden tour with a WOW factor for all to enjoy, whether locally, nationally or internationally.

What's your favourite plant and why?

In my own garden I have a number of favourite plants, rhodos, hydrangeas and perennials but roses are my favourite as they



never disappoint for display and resilience. In my previous home I had over 300 roses but pruning was always a mission.

During my time at the CHS I have learned much from the experience and knowledge of some of our older members, especially regarding the choice of planting, growing and general care of my plants.

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

The post-earthquake task of redeveloping a new garden from a building site, which is only in its first year and incorporating it into the existing garden areas was huge. I am hopeful the new garden, combined with the pre-existing one will be much easier to maintain.

When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined the CHS in 2008 after my mother died. I started by assisting Freda with the CHS Ellerslie tour programmes on a voluntary basis although I had an earlier affiliation with the CHS through my involvement with the Springston Evening Garden Club.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

Supporting any initiatives for the younger generation such as garden competitions for schools. Continuing to develop a varied, interesting tour programme for learning, fellowship and fun for lasting memorable experiences and meeting fellow passionate gardeners and plant lovers to share knowledge and enjoy.

STOP PRESS!

NZ vs South Africa One Day International

New Zealand Cricket has hired the whole complex for the dates of 21 -23 February inclusive.

Although the office will remain open during this period 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.



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*