



Rawhiti Primary school students enjoy the fruits of their labour



WHAT'S ON
NEXT
MONTH

AUGUST AAG

Monday 7th 7pm & Tuesday 8th 9.45am

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

Main speaker: **Gwen Grelet**, Soil Biologist/ Ecologist, Landcare Research.

Topic: *Healthy soils in Canterbury*

Minor speaker: **Terry Windle**

Topic: *Green manure, compost & fertilizers*

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

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

There will be no sales table until further notice.

ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS

Progress report from Mary Tingey

In 2015 and 2016 we planted orchards in 11 schools. This year we are well advanced in our planning to plant orchards in another 5 schools, including Haeata, Isleworth School, Fendalton School and Elmwood School.

Schools which planted in 2015

Northcote School Since joining the programme Northcote, with the aid of Rotary, have added substantially to their fruit trees. They have burst



out of the allotted orchard space and now carry on along a whole fence line. The orchard has also been a stimulus to renew and enlarge their vegetable gardens to six garden boxes; one per class. For their next project they are looking at developing the space under the fruit trees into a community garden. The children say they love going outside and getting dirty with nature all around. Their favourite pickings are

nectarines, strawberries, carrots and beetroot.

Oaklands School - Oakland's orchard is a beautiful, peaceful place with well grown trees, chickens and abundant wildflowers. Most of their trees are growing prolifically. Unfortunately two trees died but teacher Paul Mc Aven has planted replacements. Nearby there are a number of vegetable gardens, the harvest is used in the school cooking programme.

St Martins School One day Howard Keene, garden coordinator, found children writing poetry about the beautiful flowers in the orchards. He thought that this was one of the highlights of the orchard this year. The feijoas, currants, nectarines and plums were doing well. Two of the peaches had curly leaf and will be replaced by apples or pears. The orchard is part of a luxuriant veggie garden,



FUNDAMENTALS OF HORTICULTURE COURSE

Designed for home gardeners or those in the trade needing to up-skill their knowledge.

Where: CHS Office, 2/153 Lichfield St

When: 5.30 – 7.30pm, Thursdays 20 July - 17 August, inclusive, 9am – 1pm Saturday 5th August (venue to be advised).

Cost: \$130 per person

Book now via the office tel 366 6937 or online



Casebrook creating a garden under the fruit trees



Riccarton School



Waitakiri School



Kaiapoi School

supported by two big compost heaps. The food from the gardens is used for the garden to table programme.

Addington School Teacher Lyn Petch says, *"We can never undervalue the learning that surrounds cultivating and growing our own produce. It is never a simple undertaking that fits with knowledge, experience, trial and error. There are also many skills and qualities of a gardener that are practised by our tamariki. Qualities like patience, persistence, perseverance, teamwork, decision making and initiative. Some of our trees are young and still not producing fruit. Our blackcurrant bushes produced fruit, and jam was made by one of our teachers."*

Gilberthorpe School Pride of place in this orchard is the apricot tree which fruited very well. The currant bushes are strong and healthy and the pears have grown well too. Teacher Jess Hey is keen to include children's art in the orchard. She is considering many options to make the orchard space more enticing. The green team are called the Gilby Garden Club.

prunings to a layer of mulch all over the site. All the trees have grown and with them a vegetable garden. By Autumn pumpkins were rambling around the trees and a green house was in operation. Teacher Vicki Stevenson reports, *"Rawhiti's team of children are called the Enviro group. We are growing seedlings in the greenhouse ready for planting. We have a large group working every Friday and the kids are thrilled to have had fejoas growing and have collected some for seeds."*

Casebrook Intermediate The students designed their orchard as part of their Hard Material classes. When I visited in May this year all the trees had grown strongly. In fact some had borne their first fruit to the delight of the students. The trees are going to be numbered and each tree will have a group who are responsible for it. Casebrook has a thriving vegetable garden, the produce of which is used in the Food Technology class, seedlings and produce are also sent home with the Friday Garden Group.

Cobham Intermediate The Year 8 SPEC group at Cobham Intermediate, along with community worker Lyndon Rogers from 24/7 Your Workers and teacher aide Tracey, designed

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

JULY AAG

Monday 3rd 7pm & Tuesday 4th 9.45am

Main speaker: **David Barwick**, Botanic Gardens Collection Curators, "Year Round Colour for your Garden"

Minor speaker: **Catherine Parkes**, Wairakei School, "Incredible Edible and Sensory Gardens."

Also in the programme, From Your Gardens and this month's Tips and Tasks with Michael, Dave and Alan

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Plenty of Parking available

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

Monday 17 July 7.30pm

CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

Next Meeting

Wednesday 30 August 7.30pm

St Martins Community Centre
122 Wilsons Road

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Wednesday 19 July 3pm

CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

- Making bows
- Adding candles to arrangements
- Making a Simple posy
- Winter Themed : Any colour of Flowers

Schools which planted in 2016

Waitakiri School When I first went to visit this school building was in full swing, making it hard to visualise an orchard amongst all the rubble. By planting day in August 2016, raised beds, made by the caretaker Ian Woodward (Woody) were awaiting each tree as the school intended to grow vegetables around the trees. Waitakiri's team of children are called FERNS. Friends of the Environment who show Respect for Nature and Sustainability. All the trees are growing strongly, many looking splendid with vegetables growing underneath.

Teacher Glennys Hill says, *"We would like to thank Mary for the wonderful help you gave us in establishing our Orchard and the continuing support you are giving us. We would also like to thank the Canterbury Horticultural Society for the fruit trees we received."*

Rawhiti School When I first saw this orchard site it was a combination of sand, weeds, scrub and a huge pile of prunings. The task looked daunting. By planting day last August caretaker Georgina Lloyd had reduced the scrub and



and planted their orchard. The students maintain the orchard. Over summer they watered the trees and fed them worm tea. Each tree has been mulched twice to maintain moisture and soil fertility. By May all the trees were thriving. They are already talking about their gardening plan for next term.

Riccarton School Caretaker Colin Renouf has extended the schools thriving gardens to under the classroom windows where the children enjoy luxuriant crops of spring onions, pak choi cabbages and silverbeet. The trees were planted in and around the main gardens and compliment each other beautifully. The day I was there children were busy weeding and we also pruned a hydrangea. Once a week they work in the garden as part of their Garden to Table programme. One tree had damage from vandalism during the holidays but will live to tell the tale. One peach tree did not make the grade. The rest of the trees are growing well. The children told me, *"The trees give us fruit and clean our air."*

WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

Our Living Landscape Origins - where did I come from?



Thursday 13 July 7pm - David Adams
Bulbs – history, literature and modern developments

David Adams is a Life Member and former President of the Canterbury Horticultural Society. He is also a Life Member and former President of the National Daffodil Society with an International recognition in daffodil culture and breeding. As a retired teacher he brings skills in presentation and practical learning in many other aspects of horticulture.

M J Barnett Memorial Lecture Thursday 10 August 7pm Dr Gary Houliston

Dr Gary Houliston graduated with a PhD in Botany from the University of Canterbury in 2003. His thesis topic was the reproduction and population genetics of *Hieracium* in New Zealand. Following this, he was a post-doc at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, working on the genetic of male sterility in *Silene*. Returning to New Zealand he was hired by Landcare Research as a conservation geneticist, leading the Conservation Genetics programme at Landcare over the last six years. He has also spent considerable time working on invasive species and the assessment methods for plant importations.

Within this work programme Gary has done considerable work on what makes plants invasive, and will share some of his findings from this work. Gary has recently taken on the leadership of the Enhancing Biodiversity research Portfolio at Landcare Research, and will also provide a brief overview of the range of work in this area.

Tickets for the Winter Speaker Series can be purchased online, at the CHS Office or over the phone tel 366 6937. Free to Members, \$10 non-members, \$5 students.
www.chsgardens.co.nz/living-landscape-speaker-series



JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 20 July 3:45 - 5pm
 CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 4 July 12pm
 Christchurch Bridge Club
 21 Nova Place

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 11 July 9.45am
 Bottle Lake Forest
 Meet car park off Waitikiri Dr

Tuesday 25 July 9.45am
 Avonhead
 Meet at Crosbie Park, Woodbury St
 No walk if wet. FREE

2017 Programme available online and from the CHS Office
www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

LILY BULB SALE

Sunday 23 July 2pm
 Riccarton Racecourse

The NZ Lily Society Annual Bulb Sale offers a selection of Lily bulbs at competitive prices, including local hybrids and surplus export stock. Other plants will also be on sale.

All welcome – hope to see you there!

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*

Winter has arrived and the weather is its usual mixture of wet, cold and windy. The sunshine hours are below the average for this time of the year too, making it feel much colder and wetter than it really is.

Strong winds have caused damage to the trees and other plants in the garden. Its important to repair this damage as soon as possible, do this by pruning out the broken branches to healthy wood.

As March and April were very wet the soil has gone into Winter very wet too, take care when working the ground so as not to cause any damage to its structure.

July and August are the traditional months for pruning many plants such as roses, apples, pears and other

deciduous varieties. I recommend pruning on fine sunny days, with a follow up copper spray as a protection from any disease infection.

We can do some planting when the weather is fine enough such as fruit trees, strawberries, berry fruits and garlic. Lily bulbs need to be planted now too, remember to provide good drainage (such as sand) at the base of the bulb when planting.

Towards the end of the month you can sow in a green house some of the hardy vegetables like brassicas, lettuce and silverbeet. If you have some bottom heat, try tomatoes so that by the end of August/early September you will have seedlings ready for planting. Early potatoes may also be chitted, ready for

planting in August. Repairs to green houses should be completed by the end of the month so that they can be ready for the early Spring plantings.

The lawns always look their worst at this time of the year, often appearing yellow/brown with grass grub infestation also becoming visible. There is not much that can be done until the ground begins to warm up and the grass begins to grow again. Try to keep off the grass as much as possible, especially when there is a frost, to avoid any more damage to the lawn.

When buying new plants always get the strongest healthy plants of the best quality, even if they cost a little bit more as they are more likely to be a success. Stay warm and enjoy your garden.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN THE HOME GARDEN

Tips # 3 from Kowhai Thompson



Permaculture – Be Prepared, the Survival Garden Trend

Permaculture gardening attracts all types. City people who want to have their hands in the soil and some fresh herbs for a meal. Lifestylers who want to be more self sufficient, and survival types who want to be prepared should bad times come.

Over the last few decades there has been a trend for 'prepping' developing in many western countries.

Preppers are those who are very well prepared for financial hard times or natural disasters. Often this means cupboards packed with tinned food, gas cannisters and water. This is not a completely new idea. Vegetable gardening was particularly important during the depression and during the wars of the 20th Century. In countries

such as the US which felt the brunt of the financial shock of 2008, there is a growing awareness of the benefits of being prepared for financial shocks too. In New Zealand it is more likely to be natural disasters that could cause us to be without food for a few days or possibly a week or more. A home garden that is stocked with some good food sources could be a saviour during unexpected events. There are a few key crops which provide valuable nutrition if required.

Potatoes are great survival garden crop, can be planted in many different types of soils and provide valuable

carbohydrates. They also store well over Winter. **Pumpkins** are a great crop to grow for calories and store well also. **Hazelnuts & Almonds** provide valuable fats and protein. **Parsnips** are flavourful and have lots of nutrients, they store well in the ground with a thick layer of mulch on top. **Sunflowers** provide vitamin E and trace minerals. A bit of work to peel but a good source of nutrients. **Apples & Pears** are a great source of vitamins and minerals, preserve well for Winter storage. **Scarlet Runner Beans** can be dried completely and stored in jars, an excellent source of protein.

With these key crops you'll have a basic survival garden, or if you're running late home, skip the supermarket and head to the garden instead!

PRUNING WORKSHOPS

"Have a Go" at pruning roses, hydrangeas and camellias.

Saturday 8 July 10am

20 Longstaffs Road, Halswell

Pruning Fruit Trees

Saturday 12 August 10am

Oaklands School

37 Cunningham Pl, Halswell

Morning tea provided. Members free, non-members \$10

Register now via the office tel: 366 6937



SPOT PRIZES

Attend either Pruning workshop and you could be in to win an awesome spot prize from Oderings - **A \$30 Oderings Credit Voucher and a NZ Gardener Magazine – Growing and Using Herbs & Superfoods for Health and wellbeing.**



FLOWERWORKS

Margaret Watling Floral Demonstration

Thursday 9 November 7.30pm

Main Auditorium, The Piano

156 Armagh Street

Please make a diary note now for this feature event. We are delighted to confirm floral artists Shirley Russ and Annette Waller.

\$40 per person

Tickets on sale next month



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pansy Lemonade

Everyone needs a splash of colour, especially in Winter and early Spring. Pansy Lemonade is a 2017 standout with large bright creamy-lemon blooms with a black face and golden yellow picotee edges. Excellent for pots, garden beds and borders or wherever you want impact. Available in our bedding plant range with 9 plants per punnet. Purchase at any Oderings store or online: www.oderings.co.nz



FROM THE PRESIDENT Alan Jolliffe

Mid Winter 2017 and there is still plenty to do in the garden and the CHS is getting into practical workshops for pruning, Winter Speaker Series and other gardening activities.

Great Mid Winter lunch last weekend with friends from CHS and Garden Clubs. Thanks for organising it Elizabeth Peacock and friends.

Don't forget to come to the following activities advertised in the newsletter, Pruning Hydrangeas, Camellias & Roses and Pruning Fruit Trees, free to members.

Winter Speaker Series. Bring your friends and family as well

Like us on Facebook to get early notification of all our activities including All About Gardening.

It is time to think about changes in your garden and plan to put them into action. At this time of year you can dig up and shift shrubs and plant in new positions, lift and divide perennials and plant new plants.

Most of all keep learning new things through your membership of the CHS and encourage others to join us and participate in our many activities.

Alan Jolliffe, CHS President

HURUNUI IN SPRING - DAY TOUR

Coldstream, Loch Leven, Monte Alto & Saddlewood

Our first "Spring" day tour is to the Hurunui district on Friday 27th October 2017

One of the four gardens which we will visit is "Monte Alto". The property was originally a dead-end, undeveloped and surveyed off part of the "Caithness" farm which was retained by Margot and Mac Rutherford.

Apart from a few old willows and kowhai it was a treeless area full of gorse, native grasses, broom and weeds. Development of the property started in 1976 with the planting of shelter belts and fencing, but the projects were severely disrupted while the Hurunui irrigation canals were constructed. The irrigation scheme was opened four years later in 1980.

The house was built on a pile of shingle and boulders, the gardens and lakes were started in 1983 and were slowly developed from then. It took a great deal of physical effort in bringing in mulch and silt to overlay the stony ground to allow the plants to survive on the windswept land.

all photos Monte Alto



TOUR DIARY 2017



Blooming Tasmania & Launceston Flower Show
Longer Break - 19 - 29 September 2017
\$4,799 per person. Brochure available now



Hurunui Spring Garden Tour - 4 gardens
Day Tour Friday 27 October 2017
\$130 per person, book now



Spring Gardens Awards Tour
Friday 6 October 2017 1-4pm
Car pool, no costs. Details to be advised at October All About Gardening



Members' Spring Garden Visits
Wednesday 11 October, Fendalton
Gardens of Adrienne Moore and Ruth Benson
\$10 Members, register now and pay on the day



Geraldine Garden Tour
Day Tour Wednesday 1 November 2017
Register your interest now



NZ Flower & Garden Show - Auckland
Short Break 29 November - 2 December 2017



Autumn Colours in Central Otago
Short Break early April, after Easter 2018
Register your interest now



Landscape Architect Norman Avis developed much of the area using local stone while most of the wood carvings were designed and created by Mac, including a rustic table and chairs which he made from a tree felled on the family farm of Leslie Hills.

The 2016 Kaikoura earthquake did some damage to the house, however despite this Mac and Margo (both 90+ year olds) still maintain the sloped gardens and walkways - truly a gardeners' garden.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch in a picturesque setting beside the lake in the lower garden among the many trees and shrubs.

The participants of our 2016 tour to Culverden Fete & Amuri Gardens voted "Monte Alto" as the people's choice garden.

Bookings now open. \$130 per person, includes coach travel, morning tea and a gourmet boxed lunch

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Keith Mitchelmore

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

I was born and raised in Geraldine, the eldest of five siblings. Schooling was in Geraldine at the district primary school and high school. Not being a great scholar I only completed two years at secondary school. My first years after school, I completed an automotive apprenticeship in Geraldine before moving to Christchurch. I took on the vegetable garden where I was boarding when I first came to the city, this was much appreciated by my landlady as there was a supply of fresh produce.

Where do you live now?

I live in Spreydon with my wife Marilyn where we raised our family. Marilyn also shares my interest in gardening with great displays in the flower gardens suitable for cutting.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

My interest in gardening started at a young age as my grandparents had big sections and huge vegetable gardens that were always being tended with all the grandchildren encouraged to help with planting or harvesting.

All my uncles and aunts were very involved and competitive in both vegetables and flowers, showing off the spoils with pride. A school home garden was of fascination in my early life, watching for sown seeds to appear, keeping them weed free and watered. I also helped an uncle in his market garden with soil preparation, planting and harvesting tomato, potato, brassicas during my tween and teen years. I gained knowledge of soil conditions, seasonal plantings and best varieties to plant in the late 50's and early 60's, knowledge I still draw on now.

Drum Head Savoy cabbages the size of a large drum appeared often back then. Also very large cauliflower were produced when compared to today's produce.

I learnt to save seeds and growing plants from seeds or cuttings have been of great interest over the years with many failures and success'.

I operated a mowing franchise for a number of years and



enjoyed getting to work in other people's gardens where I learned new skills from elderly gardeners willing to pass on their knowledge.

Many cuttings were acquired and swapped during that time. Now that I'm adjusting to retirement, our garden has become a place for some quiet time or pottering about in. My younger brother has spent his working life with the Christchurch City Council starting out as an apprentice at the Botanic Gardens, Woodham Park and Mona Vale. I think gardening has been part of my DNA.

What's your favourite plant and why?

I do not have a favourite plant as such. I'm amazed how plants battle with the elements to give the rewards we get from colours and textures as the plants go through the seasons. I enjoy all the visual panorama of colour and textures we observe along with the harvest of fruit and vegetables as the seasons change.

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

My most challenging and rewarding garden projects have been putting new life into old landscapes and seeing the smiles on faces when finished. Beating annual weeds without the use of chemicals and building up the soil structure have also had their challenges and rewards.

When did you join the CHS and why?

After one of the Ellerslie Flower Shows Marilyn and I joined the CHS to keep learning about plants and gardens.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

I believe the Society is in a good space as it starts a new challenging phase in different locations while providing inspiration and support to gardeners from all ranges and abilities. Attracting younger members will be necessary for the future of the CHS.



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