



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 239 September 2017

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Office hours: 10am – 3pm
unit 2/153 Lichfield St
www.chsgardens.co.nz



CHS President Alan Jolliffe & Ōtākaro's Peter Wells partner up to plant



Ōtākaro Orchard Planting Day

Due to a successful crowd-funding campaign which generated \$60k the FRN organised the planting of fruit trees. President Alan Jolliffe demonstrated the correct planting technique, then a team of 150+ volunteers, including Mayor Lianne Dalziel (pictured above) and Regeneration Minister Hon Nicky Wagner, went about their business with relish!



Regeneration Minister Hon Nicky Wagner & supporters



WHAT'S ON
NEXT
MONTH

OCTOBER AAG

Monday 2nd 7pm & Tuesday 3rd 9.45am

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

6-13 October is National Gardening Week. The Week is presented by Yates so this month we hope to bring you something special from the Yates team.

Watch this space!

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

Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

Free to CHS Members, \$5 non-members, includes tea, coffee and refreshments.

No sales table until further notice

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The CHS office hours are now
10am to 3pm, Monday to Friday

The ending of our venue rental activities in the Horticultural Hall coupled with reduced visits from members to our new offices has reduced the need for extended opening hours. Messages can be left on our answer phone at any time plus we have all activities listed on our website.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two wonderful talks last month have made my year.

First was Gwen Grelet at the last All About Gardening where she talked about soil and all the soil fungi that help our plants to grow. Science has moved on rapidly with smarter microscopes, photography and analysis of soil borne organisms. It was mind boggling to listen to someone so enthusiastic and interesting. She provided information that answered many questions about life in the soil and how it works with plants for great growth. This new information does not mean we stop putting lots of compost and mulch onto our land.

Second was Dr Gary Houlston presenting last of our Winter Speaker Series talks and the M J Barnett Memorial Lecture. He spoke about plant genetics, particularly chromosome numbers and variance between groups of plants in the same species.

The implications of this research on our native flora, and most importantly, the underlying decisions made by those people undertaking native plant re-vegetation projects means a 'back to the drawing board' rethink about seed collection, provenance and planting.

Both of these speakers highlighted the real importance for us gardeners and horticulturists to keep up to date with the latest research and evaluate this for our own land.

The future of our thriving gardens may depend upon our collective understanding of new science and how it will best be applied to our gardens, parks and reserves.

Alan Jolliffe
CHS President



WORLD GARDENS

Elizabeth Peacock

Sumptuous Singapore. First stop enroute to England and Canada was Singapore, with one of the most beautiful entrances to a city from the airport. Tropical trees, bougainvillea and orchids in abundance and of course, Raffles.

Next stop **England.** A family wedding in Bishops Stortford, close to Windsor staying in a manor house like Downton Abbey, complete with 100 acre gardens before heading to Cornwall to visit the **Eden Project Gardens**... Huge, eco-friendly, beautiful but over-run with people like us there to see. **The Lost Gardens of Helligan** followed. An awe-inspiring example of what hard work and determination can produce. The green houses and border garden were my choice over the whole 400 acres that had been restored. The Woodland walk was also beautiful, but very long!

Next stop **Montreal.** In a city of such extreme temperatures, -23 to 40+ C°, the public gardens, parks, motorway gardens, planters and the hanging baskets on lamp posts everywhere are a wealth of colour. Unexpected topiary gardens were a delight in road-side parks. The riot of colour in the plant stalls

at the Atwater Market were a joy to see every time we visited.

In **Otawa** we experienced 2 acres of amazing topiary, some up to 4 or more meters tall. Set in gardens planted to compliment each exhibit we were blown away by the scale and creativity of it all. On to the **Calgary Stampede.** The streets were full of colour with double hanging baskets on most lamp posts and planters everywhere. This was a continuing theme in Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper and Vancouver.

Finally to the Garden City, **Victoria** on Vancouver Island, the city of garden beds, newly weds and nearly deads" a quote from our bus driver and of course the Butchart Gardens. These were even more beautiful than we remembered and certainly a top garden in the world.

Coming home to Christchurch only emphasised my belief that unless drastic measures are taken to improve the content and maintenance of our public gardens and motorways, Christchurch is a long way from deserving the title of Garden City.

Elizabeth Peacock, CHS Past President

WHAT'S ON
THIS
MONTH

SEPTEMBER AAG

Mon 4th 7pm & Tue 5th 9.45am

Main Speaker: **Sarah Berger**, Hub Coordinator from Oooby (Out of our own backyard). Minor Speaker: Oderings **Pamela Smith** presenting on "lesser known edibles".

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

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Plenty of Parking available

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

Cuttings Workshop

Saturday 2 September 1.30pm

Susan & Michael Coulters
183 Weston Road - Taking cuttings for forthcoming plant sale.

Monday 18 September 7.30pm

CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

General cultural notes, preparing soil for potting on early flowering plants. Pests.

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 5 September 12pm

Christchurch Bridge Club
21 Nova Place

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Wednesday 20 September 3pm

CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

Focus on: Displays - large vases or pots needed; Prep for Spring Show - large flowers needed: Chrysanthemums, Peonies (can be artificial)

HORTSKILLS

Principles & Practices of Horticulture Course

A five week course where participants will learn the art and science of horticulture.

\$130 per person, register & pay online www.chsgardens.co.nz/hortskills-principals

Evening sessions held at the CHS Office 2/153 Lichfield St, 5.30 - 7.30pm, Thursdays from 5 October to 2 November 2017.

Includes one Saturday morning practical session (details to be advised).

At the end of the course participants will understand:

- How plants are identified
- Terminology used in horticulture
- Plant structure and function
- Plant pathogens and their control
- Soil types and soil modification
- Plant propagation
- How to select plants to suit growing conditions
- Basic garden design

More details: www.chsgardens.co.nz/hortskills-principles



The latest colourful creations from the Floral Design Group. Next meeting Wed 20 September, come along!



Congratulations to our participants from the July Fundamentals of Horticulture Course - a great bunch of gardeners looking forward to applying their new skills!

ODERINGS

Plant of the month

Carex Spark Plug

We are very proud to introduce the first new Carex in years, available exclusively from Oderings!

Spark Plug forms short, tight clumps of variegated foliage that looks like electric sparks. The colours and leaf architecture make this a magnificent blender or filler for the garden or combine it with other plants in containers.

Available now from Oderings stores and online
www.oderings.co.nz



ODERINGS
GARDEN CENTRES

SPRING GARDEN AWARDS 2017

Entries close

27 September

Judging Sunday 1 October

*Entry forms available from
the CHS Office or online
www.chsgardens.co.nz*

Spring Garden Awards Tour

View a stunning selection of gardens from our Awards.

*Hosted by Gail Scrivener
Friday 6 October 2017
1-4pm
free event*

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 12 September 9.45am
Halswell Quarry Park
Meet by old Caretaker's House

Tuesday 26 September 9.45am
Travis Wetlands

Meet car park left off Frosts Rd on Beach Rd

No walk if wet. FREE

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

FLORAL ART SOCIAL GROUP

Thursday 21 September 12pm
Secret Garden Cafe
Oderings, Stourbridge Street

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 17 September 3:45 - 5pm
CHS Office: 2/153 Lichfield Street

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

Wednesday 27 September 7.30pm
St Martins Community Centre, 122 Wilsons Rd

Ron Andrews, **President of the Christchurch Beautifying Assn.**, is involved with an interesting project of setting up a Gardeners' Retirement Village in Papanui. As Christchurch is world-renowned as the Garden City he thought this venture was very appropriate.

Plenty of Parking available. Please bring your own cup for a drink at suppertime.

FRUIT TREE PRUNING

Another great turnout for our Winter workshop!

Over 50 keen gardeners joined this workshop on Saturday 12 August. Much was learnt with the hands-on teaching approach. Congratulations to Mary Young, winner of the \$30 Oderings Credit Voucher and a NZ Gardener Magazine.



MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS with Michael Coulter



Early Spring has arrived with the usual changeable weather typical for this time of the year. This year is no different with the challenge of wet ground from the wet Winter just finished and with the soil at field capacity we will need to be careful when working the ground so as not to damage the soil structure.

As we will need to wait until the ground has dried out we may have to delay seed sowing and transplanting some of the early crops in the open ground.

We can of course carry on with sowing seeds inside to have plants ready for later on when the conditions are better suited for planting.

The pruning of fruit trees should now be completed and any Winter spray programmes finished. With wet ground weeds will always become a problem so keep on top of them and do not allow them to get too big as they always seem to be harder to control under these conditions.

As the weather warms up and dries out moss control on paths and lawns will be more effective. Repotting of container grown plants will give them a good start to the growing season ahead, it is better to use a good quality potting mix for the best results.

NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

6th -13th October 2017

Dust off the gloves. Dig out the spade. Get ready to get your hands dirty. National Gardening Week is coming up 6th - 13th October 2017.

The Week aims to foster a love of gardening with a focus on growing not only plants but friendships, good health, strong communities and closer connections with nature.

This year's National Gardening Week is about getting everyone into the garden, whether experienced, passionate gardeners or just starting out. During the week people are encouraged to help out in their community garden, lend a hand in a neighbour's garden or get stuck in to their own.

Kiwis love their gardens – whether it's a quarter acre or a few pots on the deck – everyone can experience the joy of gardening. It's good for the soul!

To kick off National Gardening Week, from 1st - 13th October Yates will be giving a free packet of seeds to everyone who registers online at www.yates.co.nz/nationalgardeningweek



To celebrate our national love of gardening some of New Zealand's great gardeners, young and old will be sharing their inspiring stories. If you are interested in telling one of these stories, please get in touch.

Lianne Donovan : Tel: (09) 522 7125 Mob: 027 222 7348

SPRING FLOWER SHOW 2017

Saturday 16 September 1pm-5pm

Sunday 17 September 10am -4pm

Woolston Club, 43 Hargood Street

Rare Plants - Specialist Sellers

NZ Alpine Garden Society

CHS Daffodil Circle

Rhododendron Society

Admission \$5

(free for children under 15)

Plenty of Free Parking

FLOWERWORKS

Floral designers Shirley Russ & Annette Waller share their passion for flowers in Flowerworks - one evening, two demonstrations, one great experience!



Thursday 9 November 7pm

The Piano, Centre for Music and the Arts

Tickets: \$40

On sale now

www.chsgardens.co.nz

tel: (03) 366 6937

Fruit and Vegetable Garden

1. Finish the Winter work of pruning and spraying.
2. Apply fertilisers around the drip line of fruit trees.
3. Apply citrus fertilisers around the citrus plants.
4. Keep strawberries weed free and apply fertilisers.
5. Plant new fruit trees and give them good support.
6. Early sowings of vegetables may be started when the ground allows.
7. Prepare the ground for planting the warmer loving crops, dig in compost, add fertilisers and weed.
8. Remove any of the Winter crops that are finished and clean up the ground.
9. Plant the first early potatoes.

Flower Garden

1. Keep Spring bulbs weed free and remove dead flowers and apply a bulb fertiliser (one high in potash).
2. Prune the flowering shrubs as they finish flowering to encourage next years flowers .
3. Dead head Spring annuals and perennials to help continuous flowering.
4. Finish rose pruning and Winter spray programme.
5. Clean up around hostas and treat for slugs and snails.
6. Prune fuchsias at the end of the month to the strongest new growth.
7. Sow in glasshouse Summer annuals.

Lawns

1. Aerate lawns after the wet Winter (a garden fork in the ground worked backwards and forwards will do a good job on most lawns).
2. Cut and catch the clippings but do not cut too low.
3. After the first 2 to 3 cuts fertilise with a lawn fertiliser.
4. Treat for moss as weather warms up.
5. At the end of the month you may spray for weeds in the lawn.

Get Text Event Reminders

Sign up with your mobile number to receive TXT alerts to AAG & CHS events. Simply text "CHS" followed by your name to the number 226 and you'll be added to our list. Or call us on: (03) 366 6937 with your mobile telephone number.

HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW

A long awaited dream for Tour Manager Gail Scrivener

In July while most of you were experiencing Winter in NZ I was enjoying the warmth of Summer in the UK for the purpose to visit numerous famous castles, manors, and well-known gardens.

Attending the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show in the palace grounds has been a long-awaited dream and on the 4th July, it became reality for me.

On this very hot day I marvelled at the enormity of the display gardens that were innovative, beautiful and intriguing Inspiration was found in the planting combinations, landscape features and design styling.

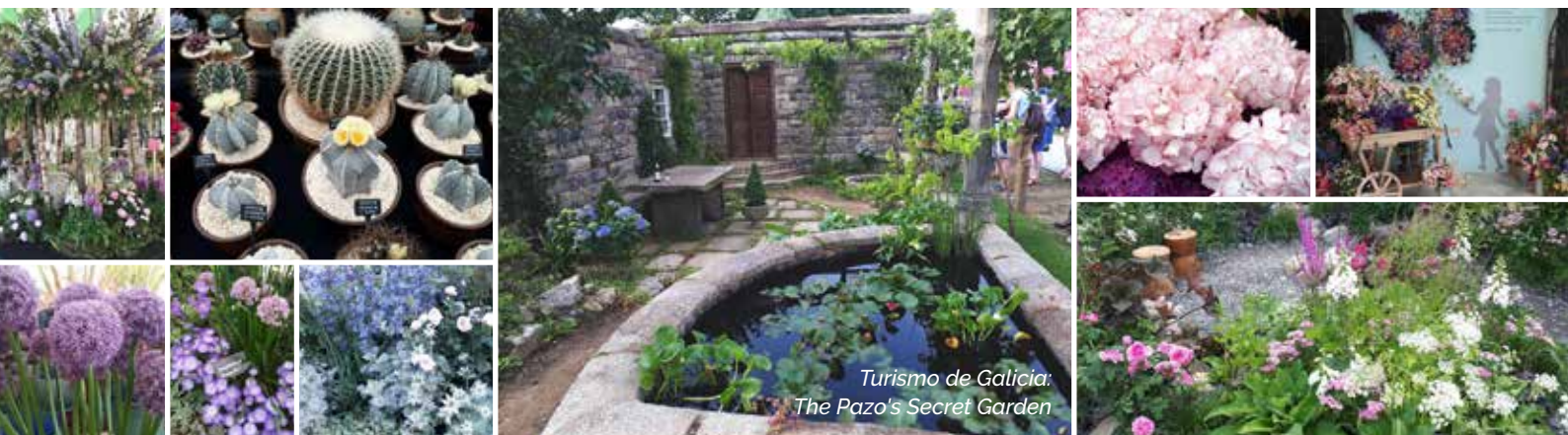
There were five garden categories and it was the "World Gardens" that drew my attention to the amazing displays that transported you to Spain, and the North American places of

Oregon, Charleston, and Lee County, to observe how planting styles change in response to the world's geography and geology. Visiting the Floral Marquee was another highlight of my day, - taking in the vast array of everyday and rare plants on offer from a wealth of specialist nurseries.

The vibrant colour and scent in the "Festival of Roses" and the works of floral art in the "Floral Design Studio" indulged my passion and heightened my desire to return.

How envious I was of all those ladies with their many bags filled with plants returning to London central on the train that evening. A day I could only describe as a feast of fun and beauty.

A CHS tour is planned for June 2018 including the Hampton Court Flower Show, register your interest now



TOUR DIARY 2017



Hurunui Spring Garden Tour

Day Tour with four gardens
Friday 27 October 2017 - \$130 **book now**



Members' Spring Garden Visits

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



Geraldine Garden Tour

Day Tour with three gardens
Wednesday 1 November 2017 - \$135 **book now**



Wigram Lions Charity Christchurch Garden Tour

Day Tour with 7 gardens
Saturday 25 or Sunday 26 November - \$95
Includes morning tea, entrance, coach & lunch at Oderings Secret Garden Cafe **book now**



Autumn Colours in Central Otago Short Break early

April, after Easter 2018
Register your interest now



Hampton Court Flower Show & English Gardens

Longer Break June 2018
Register your interest now

CHRISTCHURCH BEAUTIFYING ASSOCIATION

120 year Anniversary Celebrations, Saturday 9 & 10 September 2017

Saturday 9 September 2pm

Visit to Woodford Homestead

399 Papanui Road, meet outside at 1.55pm
\$10 per person

Sunday 10 September 12pm

Luncheon at Château on the Park

Garden Court Brasserie
Keynote speaker Lianne Dalziel, Mayor of Christchurch
\$25 per person

The 2018 CBA Calendar

This calendar will be available from 1 September (in time for posting Christmas presents overseas!).
\$10 including envelope

Contact a committee member to purchase tickets or a calendar. Visit www.christchurchbeautifyingassn.org.nz for a full list of committee members or telephone: Lesley Taylor on 385 3137 (CBA Secretary).

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Michele Moore

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

My childhood was powerfully dominated by the magnificent Mt Ruapehu, under whose watchful eye I frequently sallied forth into the desert among the wild flowers and other intriguing alpine flora near Waiouru, often bringing home bags of botanical loot to pore over in the evenings or to press inside the pages of Arthur Mee's Encyclopedia.

Mum was a keen gardener, sending all over New Zealand for specimens for her precious rock garden. And then my grandfather, a survivor from the ANZAC Campaign, hence my love of poppies, had a small orchard and also grew pansies for the flower market in Auckland. Some forty years earlier he had planted native bush at the rear of his property overlooking the Manukau Harbour, so holidays there meant playing in the bush, making huts and bow'n arrows from Supplejack, and becoming familiar with the Rewarewa, Puriri, Rimu and especially, Cyathea dealbata, the Silver Fern. My grandmother was an trained artist who also spoke Maori. She belonged to Elam's Rutland Group and produced the first published work on NZ plant pigments. Hers was also the hand behind many indigenous book plates, hand cut and usually incorporating native plants and Maori motifs.

Where do you live now?

My husband and I have a home in Hyde Park which we have recently had repaired so we took the opportunity over the last year or so to completely re-landscape and bring it into the 21st century. Whew!

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

After I left uni, where I had studied Environmental Science and Botany, I worked surveying the remnants of native forest in Northland for the DSIR. Later I was employed by Telford Farm Training Institute, now part of Lincoln University, as a horticultural tutor. I set up an herbarium there and also worked in their nursery and extensive vegetable garden, in which they trained students and grew a mountain of veggies to feed them all.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

Growing edible plants is high on my list, as I know where my food has been and what isn't sprayed on it! It's great to eat from my own garden, even if it's only a handful of herbs that form a small part of our meals. Having investigated, I discovered that I had fifteen varieties of edible herbs and thirteen of fruit trees. I think the easiest food to grow for



success is greens; they are ready for harvest in no time and are wonderful for a continuous supply of what we are told we should be eating.

What's your favourite plant and why?

Some years ago I travelled in Asia and was thrilled to finally see those famous, forested mountains of China, with almost vertical sides and pines emerging against the skyline – I was so thrilled on seeing them as we landed and attempted to photograph the scene only to be arrested by a Red Guard who grasped me by the shoulder and removed the camera! Another escapade in China in which my botanical pursuits gave trouble was in my excitement to photograph the enormous Lotus flower I dropped my camera into the pond where it was growing! Many other Chinese plants are among my favourites, including lots of their vegetables, Narcissus, Chrysanthemums, Pines and Bamboos. I love plants with all their myriad of colours and textures but one stands head and shoulders above all others, New Zealand Flax, Harakeke (Phormium tenax). She is strong, useful, elegant and for me, a symbol of my patriotism, and I miss Harakeke a lot when I am out of the country as it really is a key feature of our landscape; followed a close second by that other iconic figure, Te Kouka, the Cabbage Tree. As a child I spent many days and hours fishing for Koura, freshwater crayfish in a meandering stream amongst a forest of tall flaxes.

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

Apart from raising four children, I also thoroughly enjoyed home-schooling them for about fifteen years. As well as a thorough dose of history from wo to go, I was able to share with them my love of New Zealand's great outdoors, forests, science-on- your-door- step, being inquisitive and responsible about everything around us.

When did you join the CHS and why?

In the two years I've been involved there have been many fascinating opportunities to grow my plant knowledge, even into areas I hadn't previously thought about.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

Getting into the garden is so good for you; it's refreshing and stimulating as well as great exercise, whatever your age from toddler to elderly, so I think it is high time that our Council acknowledge this and start using a good chunk of our rates to support the CHS and the home gardener in our gorgeous Garden City.



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