

SILVER SUCCESS

Love (in) Your Garden

Ellerslie International Flower Show 2012

Canterbury Horticultural Society win Silver! We are delighted to announce a Silver Distinction Award from the 2012 Ellerslie International Flower Show.

Read more about our Ellerslie experience inside

PRESENTED BY
EGMONT SEED COMPANY
ELLERSLIE
INTERNATIONAL
FLOWER SHOW
CHRISTCHURCH
NEW ZEALAND

SILVER
DISTINCTION
AWARD 2012



TOP TASKS

JUNE: There is not much to plant now so dig over the plot and spread pea straw.

Prevent weeds with a pre-emergent weedkiller to prevent weeds from sprouting (without killing off established plants).

Smarten up native grasses by lifting the entire grass and cleaning out the weeds, replace and firm up around the base

Sow: Asparagus (crowns), lettuce, mustard, onions, peas, spinach

JULY: Treat your herb garden to a haircut, trim sage, thyme and oregano to make way for spring growth.

Consider using a frost cloth for chilly winter nights. Frost damaged plants should be left as is - as any subsequent frost will kill the new growth.

Plant: Roses and winter flowering shrubs like sweetly scented white Daphne or add some colour with an easy-care Camellia.

AUGUST: With spring around the corner start planning your spring vegetables, flowers and fruit. If your soil is still cold and wet, raise garden beds with an addition of peat and compost to prepare for planting later.

Phacelia, Sage and French Marigolds make great companion plants, and planted in pots, can be easily moved around the garden.

Plant: Early carrots and radishes

Sow: Broad Beans, cabbage, lettuce, onion, spring onions, parsnip, potatoes

all about GARDENING



Greening the Rubble

GREEN OPTIMISM *Creative responses to natural tragedy*

PHOTOGRAPHS & WORDS RHYS TAYLOR

Greening the Rubble is a uniquely optimistic community response to a natural tragedy. This Christchurch project began in November 2010 after demolition spaces suddenly became available in the urban streets, such as the corner of Victoria and Salisbury Streets. This park was built in Jan-Feb 2011, disappeared into central city Red Zone inaccessibility after 22 Feb and emerged, butterfly-like, from that protectively-fenced cocoon in April. Wild flowers bloomed, paths and contoured lawns welcomed passing strollers, and kowhai trees in metal planters loaned by the City Council added scale and height.

In December this first temporary park was dismantled, as planned, ready for the owners to rebuild offices on this valuable site. The landscaping materials were relocated to Barbadoes Street (former Piko store) and Colombo Street, Sydenham, with input from additional landscape designers.



View towards rear of High Street

Volunteers from ecology and landscape contracting professions, universities, local government, gardeners and advocates for liveable, walkable cities, joined forces to create what is now a 100-strong team, with a part time Project Worker and newly recruited Sites Supervisor to help coordinate efforts and marshal the tonnes of donated materials.

Key continuing funders and sponsors include Christchurch City Council, Living Streets Aotearoa, City Care Ltd, Urban Paving Ltd and Placemakers

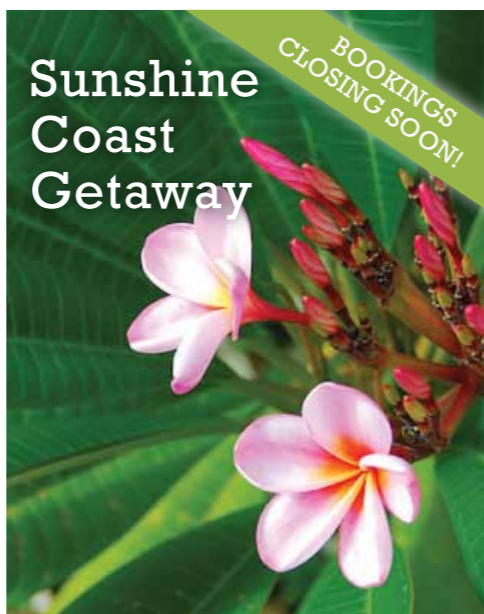
Riccarton, and much additional help has been received from other firms and organisations in the form of gifted or discounted materials and plants, staff time and specialist skills. The Project collaborates with a 'sister' trust, Gap Filler, to help activate sites.

Individuals have donated plants from their gardens, although this is very time consuming for the volunteers to handle, transport and care for until they can be used: the Project is choosy about what to accept, so that the right plants can go in the right places. The landscape designs have to cope with uneven surfaced sites that do not have water or power, may be dusty and unshaded, full of glass and brick-debris and often short of soil. Many elements are designed to be re-locatable so that volunteer effort is not wasted in constructing them for short-term use. The project uses recycled material inputs and minimises waste, so it contributes to 'greening' of the post-quake city in several ways.

Perhaps the strongest impact of the project, beyond its obvious visual cheer, has been in recovery psychology and community-building. It has allowed those who have untapped skills and energy to apply them to public benefit, to engage visiting students with residents, and to assist economic renewal in some badly-damaged streets. Hard to put a price on that, but it must be valuable.

"Many thanks to Canterbury Horticultural Society members who have helped in various ways." says Project Worker Rhys Taylor

Find out more at www.greeningtherubble.org.nz



Sunshine Coast Getaway

BOOKINGS CLOSING SOON!

8 Day Stay-Put Holiday

Noosa/Mooloolaba
24 - 31 July 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

Everglades National Park & Coloured Sands Tour, Tropical Private Gardens & Galleries, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Glasshouse Mountains, Montville, Maleny, Brisbane sightseeing. Pools, Spa and more!

\$2,750, member
\$2,950 non-member
ITINERARY AVAILABLE - Book Now!



Tempting Tasmania

8 Day Tour
3-10 November 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

2 nights Launceston, 4 nights Hobart
1 night Melbourne

Explore Hobart & Launceston, Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Port Arthur Historic site, Historic House & Gardens, Australia's Premier Arts & Craft Fair, Woolmer's Estate Rose Gardens Deloraine, Melbourne - Picturesque Mornington Peninsula plus much more.

\$4,400 member
\$4,600 non-member
ITINERARY AVAILABLE - Book Now!

all about GARDEN TOURS

Tour News

FREDA HUNTER, *Tour Manager, Canterbury Horticultural Society*

Autumn has been a busy tour season. In March we welcomed many visitors participating in the Ellerslie Garden Tours, from around New Zealand and overseas. They were most impressed with the hospitality of the host gardens and the sparkling presentation of the properties.

Following Ellerslie was the Garden Riches & Gourmet Delights Tour in the lower North Island. The herbal workshop was an added attraction with a choice between making your own face cream or a herbal healing cream (for aches & pains). Some of the ingredients included were Calendula, Arnica and Eucalyptus oils which leant a wonderful aroma. The Gourmet experience at Ruth Pretty's was an absolute highlight. A cooking demonstration and a three course lunch were followed by a tour of the herb garden, where we were introduced to the art of growing of micro greens. So easy to grow and so good at adding extra flavour to a variety of dishes.

The Mirage Resort Alexandra Headland in Queensland was my destination for a relaxing break. I took the opportunity to



The Herb Farm

familiarize myself with the places we will visit in July for the Sunshine Coast Getaway Tour. The Resort is set amongst lush gardens with amazing foliage and flowers and oh!! the pool and spa!! A great setting for a winter getaway in the warmth of Queensland.

I look forward to your company on my forthcoming tours.

Freda Hunter, *Tour Manager*

For all inquires you are most welcome to call in to see me at the office. Eftpos and credit card facilities now available.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SUNSHINE COAST GETAWAY 24 -31 July 2012

GERALDINE DAY TRIP 24 Oct 2012

EXPERIENCE THE CHATHAMS 16 - 23 Oct 2012

TEMPTING TASMANIA 3 - 10 Nov 2012



EXPERIENCE THE CHATHAMS 16 - 23 October 2012

Wilderness, history, flora & fauna - a repeat of this popular tour.



HIGHLIGHTS: Flora & fauna; private gardens; Chatham Island Forget-me-nots; spectacular night skies; rich cultural heritage, varied and dramatic scenery; friendly small community. There is so much to see and experience on this far away island - promising an especially memorable tour.

Costs: from \$3,335 (member) to \$3896 (non-member)

WELLINGTON WEARABLE ARTS 6 - 7 October 2012 FULL!



2 Nights Wellington. **Highlights:** Iconic Show, Wellington Botanic Gardens, Weta Workshop visit and much more from the capital city!

ELLERSLIE REFLECTIONS

Phil Ducker reflects on Ellerslie 2012

For over 20 days Phil Ducker and a small team of volunteers worked doggedly to assemble Tony Milne's romantic vision of Love (in) Your Garden.

When you start a project that is completely different to any garden you have ever encountered, an open mind is essential. Above all enjoy it, have a lot of fun with the added bonus of meeting wonderful people along the way. My main team was made up of myself, wife Linda, Donn Hampton and Tony & Lola Harding. This small team did all the groundwork and the time and enthusiasm they put in was outstanding. When it came to deconstructing the garden they were still keen to help and spent another 4 days working on site.

The next person we encountered on site was Wongi Wilson, the Graffiti artist. His talent and skill was a joy to see and many passersby came to admire his work. Above all he joined in with us 'old folk' and made it a very pleasant experience.

I must now mention some statistics: 17 cubic metres of compost; 12 1.2 metre deep holes; 25 road cones; many metres of electrical cabling; 16 cubic metres of sand; hundreds of NoMow plants and thousands of wildflowers!

Needless to say the figures above brought a myriad of logistical challenges - both mental and physical! Fortunately we had a great team and some very generous sponsors who performed outstandingly. We are especially grateful to Foodstuffs; Fulton Hogan; and Accent Lighting. As well as all the individuals who laboured tirelessly to achieve the project, especially Graeme Lyes; Shaun McMahon and team; Graeme & Kerry Evans from 360 Urban Ltd; Mark Hooper of Arbor Master Ltd and Leona Murahidy.

The last 2 days were very hectic. Tony came with his staff members, Jeremy and Hannah and worked all day Saturday to help put the final touches to the plants. The job was finally completed with 2 minutes to spare!

Supporting the show during Ellerslie were a wonderful bunch of hostesses, managed and encouraged tirelessly by Annette Hill. "I've never worked with, or met, so many enthusiastic people, even in the worst of the weather they remained so positive. Right from the start when I started phoning people, it was such an enjoyable undertaking and while busy, was not stressful.", says Annette of her experience as coordinator.

Following the busy days of exhibition came the breakdown. Not many people like this job but we had many willing helpers and it all went as planned. School pupils from the Catholic Cathedral College proved welcome helpers and they had much fun taking things down from the stamen poles (as well as enjoying the tasty oranges while they worked). Other helpers included Carole Anderton and Protranz who along with five men and two trucks, helped clear up the site. We were incredibly grateful for their support. A great job - well done.

The Society would like to say a very special thank-you to Phil and his team for all their hard work, and of course to Tony Milne and Rough & Milne Landscape Architects. We are delighted with our Ellerslie Silver Distinction Award. Finally, thank-you Annette and your wonderful hostesses; what a positive face you presented for the Society - congratulations all!

OWN A PIECE OF ELLERSLIE

For the last 10 years Wongi Wilson has been "decorating" walls as a way of making quality street art instead of random tagging. Putting his final year of a Bachelor of Design on hold, 2012 sees him dedicate himself full time to his creative art practice.

Wongi's beautiful panels that formed such an integral part of Love (in) Your Garden are now for sale. Each panel is 2.4 x 1.2m. Only a few remain so contact the CHS office if you wish to purchase one of these individual art pieces. You can also view a time-lapse video of Wongi creating these on:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyHOJaiBy1Y



JUNIOR GARDNERS

Practical gardening activities for children 8-14yrs

17 May Hardwood Cuttings

How to take cuttings and use growth promoters

21 June Collecting & Planting

How to collect and grow seeds to transplant size

19 July Visit to Fowraker House

All about Alpine Plants

3.45pm - 5.00pm Third Thursday of the month
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre, tel: (03) 366 6937

From the President

Ross Beaumont



What does the future hold for The Society? What are our dreams, our ambitions, our goals? We have a vision to be the premier horticultural organisation in New Zealand and to promote

excellence in horticulture.

We are but guardians for future generations and as such strive to ensure that we get things right for that future. We are going through difficult times but on the way achieve success; our 150 year celebrations including an autumn and spring show, the 2012 Ellerslie Flower Show where we won a Silver Distinction award and introduced the 'Love Your Garden' concept. Then there is the recent 'Garage Sale' and the ever popular 'All About Gardening'. Congratulations and a big thank you to the people involved in those events.

It is said 'that if nothing changes then nothing changes' and sometimes change is forced upon us whether we plan it or not.

In the last newsletter we introduced Dr. Michael Gousmett who has spent much of the past four months analysing the financial management of The Society and initiating a review of the constitution. It is with regret that I advise Dr. Gousmett has resigned from his position as Executive Officer. He has however offered to assist the Management Committee in a consultative role in the future.

With Helen's absence due to illness recently and a need to fill that very important roll in the office Shirley Russ kindly offered to assist until Helen returned. We took this opportunity to ask her, and she accepted, to once again step into the role of Interim Manager.

Your governing body, the Management Board, has recently introduced new blood into its ranks; Dave Adams, Athol McCully, Ray King, Marilyn Vicary and Garry Moore bring additional strengths and rekindled enthusiasm. To quote an encouraging note from one of our board members "I have detected a new spirit in the CHS; a determination and excitement amongst the members".

Finally, it is with sadness we farewell Harold Mintrom, who passed away in March. His role as the Volunteer Co-ordinator for All About Gardening, the newsletter and garage sale teams gave him contact with many CHS members. Respected for his enthusiasm and generosity of spirit he will be missed.

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

June, July, August 2012

JUNE Tuesday 5th 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 6th 9.45 - 11.45am

In the Garden - Tips & Tasks & Your Questions with Michael Coulter
From Your Gardens & Notice Board

Late Bloomer - Reflections on the development of Rose Growing in New Zealand by Steve Moffatt of Moffatt's Flowers.

Green Roofs and Living Walls - Dr Colin Meurk, ecologist at Landcare Research and designer of the lush and fascinating gold award winning garden "Transitions" at Ellerslie 2012 explains the principles and possibilities involved in the greening of the city and how we can all contribute by putting nature into our very own gardens and neighbourhoods.

JULY Tuesday 3rd 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 4th 9.45 - 11.45am

In the Garden - Tips & Tasks & Your Questions with Michael Coulter
From Your Gardens & Notice Board

Growing Micro Greens - Colourful, dainty "micro greens" are the very latest culinary fashion. Ray King will share her knowledge and show us how it's done.

Garden Escapees - Alan McDonald, a biodiversity ranger from DOC, reveals some of the plants that have jumped the fences of domestic gardens to become weeds in the wild, creating a threat to our native flora.

AUGUST Tuesday 7th 7 - 9pm & Wednesday 8th 9.45 - 11.45am

In the Garden - Tips & Tasks & Your Questions with Michael Coulter
From Your Gardens & Notice Board

Sharing Your Knowledge - In preparation for spring and summer, Dave Adams chairs an interactive session where members can share their tips on what, when, and how to plant, and other gardening words of wisdom. (Come prepared with your favourite tip!)

Garden Photography - Many of the envy-making photographs of New Zealand gardens we see in glossy magazines are the work of acclaimed local photographer Juliet Nicholas. She shares the story of her career as a garden photographer, along with her tips for aspiring garden photographers.

All About Gardening is held at the CHS Centre in Hagley Park on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. \$3 members, \$7 non-members. Includes morning tea / supper, tea & coffee.

IS BEAUTIFUL STATIONERY JUST YOUR CUP OF TEA?



Phoenix Trading - a well established UK company - produces a fresh, innovative range of greeting cards, invitations, writing paper, gift wrap and much more.

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GARAGE SALE SUCCESS

Another successful Garage Sale was held on 31 March with over \$7,000 raised. To all our members who continually donate saleable items, bake, make preserves and pot up plants we are very grateful. Thank you also to the 70 plus volunteers who generously give their time.

From Dirt to Dinner

Mary Duff, admirer & manipulator of the fruits of the earth



Too much mint?

"Make sure your mint doesn't run away on you, advises the neighbor at the back. "Plant it in a buried container" he explains. "Thank you" I respond automatically.

I did not follow this advice and it seems I have been suffering the mint drought curse ever since.

All I can grow in my mint patch are plump and juicy, minty emerald caterpillars. I haven't fried any yet but I know they would go down well with chocolate at the Wild Foods Festival

If I could just grow enough mint I would make some of that wonderful pesto that I developed for Sainsbury's when I was in the UK. Of course, I couldn't repeat this top secret recipe - even if I could remember it.

I do remember the basic ingredients though - mint, parsley, olive oil, lemon zest, lemon oil, bread crumbs, and salt. I don't remember garlic but it would work well too.

Blended up it's perfect on pasta or potatoes. Try it hot for a winter dinner or cold for salad.

Mary Duff is a Food Technologist who loves food and gardening. Mary is originally from a beef and cropping farm on the South Canterbury border so perhaps this explains her dirt to dinner fascination.

HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE?

Next edition deadline: Friday 27 July 2012

All material via email to: info@chsgardens.co.nz

POLAR BLAST

CHS Mid-Winter Luncheon

12pm 11 July 2012

Polar expeditioner Aaron Russ discusses survival in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Dress for the occasion - wear your favourite scarf!

Limited tickets available from the CHS Office.
tel: (03) 366 6937 email: info@chsgardens.co.nz

Jottings from the Landscape Corner

Rough and Milne Landscape Architects

It is an exciting time for the discipline of Landscape Architecture in Christchurch. Pre-existing principles of sustainability and resilience have taken on a new meaning in Canterbury where an awareness of natural hazards has increased significantly. With this in mind, many landscape architects in Christchurch have already undertaken new and exciting challenges as they are faced with an unprecedented opportunity to propose significant (and positive) alterations to our environments, making them better, more resilient places to live now and in the future.



Plantings in the Re:Start Cashel Mall

Rough and Milne Landscape Architects (RMLA) is a local Christchurch based firm that has been actively involved in the recovery since September 2010. While RMLA has continued working with their usual clients (including District and Regional Councils, government departments, institutions, infrastructure providers and a wide range of individual investors) the scope of work has widened to include a higher proportion of

larger civic and commercial projects with an emphasis on concepts of temporary, flexible and resilient environments. In a number of cases, RMLA has donated their services to recovery projects such as Re:Start Cashel Mall and the regeneration of Freeville School. They have also participated in competitions such as the 48hr Design Challenge and the Ellerslie Flower Show where earthquake recovery has been a major theme. Several RMLA staff are active members of Greening the Rubble groups and other community based organisations where they share their expertise, interest and support in the recovery and enhancement of their local environments.

RMLA was established in 2010 when Peter Rough Landscape Architects and Tony Milne Landscape Architects merged to become Rough & Milne Landscape Architects Christchurch. As a result, RMLA's expertise spans a wide spectrum of landscape architecture practice. The team is comprised of seven full time Landscape Architects, one or two student interns in the summer, plus an Urban Designer (who is currently seconded to the Christchurch City Council).

RMLA will be keeping readers up to date with their current projects and with new landscape architecture trends, over the next editions of the CHS newsletter.

To sign off: a small quote to help explain just what it is that landscape architects (aim to) do in their work:

The work of the landscape architect (architect of the landscape) is to help bring people, their structures, activities, and communities into harmonious relationship with the living earth – with the want to be of the land.

John Ormsbee Simonds

Magic Micro Greens

Ray King

On the recent Garden Riches & Gourmet Delights Tour with Freda Hunter we were lucky enough to visit Ruth Pretty at Te Horo just north of Wellington. Apart from a fantastic lunch we were treated to a visit to their herb garden. As the complex has 10 full time chefs and caters to a great variety of functions they do not try to grow their own vegetables but they do grow all their own herbs and microgreens. Now any of you who keenly watch the various Masterchef shows on TV will have seen these magic little greens being used in all manner of ways.

As I have tried to grow these greens myself with no luck I was very interested in what was happening at Te Horo, fortunately Claire, the gardener there was only too happy to spend time with us explaining how they go about it and how to get started. She also pointed us

in the direction of a marvellous book called "How to Grow Microgreens, nature's own superfood" by New Zealand author, Fiona Hill.

Since returning home I have been experimenting with these microgreens and we have been enjoying some exciting additions to our salads, let alone decorating our dishes with these delicate little leaves.

I have found that cress, rocket and mustard are very easy to grow and rocket in particular tastes so much nicer when it is picked fresh and tiny straight from the container. I am also experimenting with basil, peas, coriander and corn microgreens and can see that in winter these will be a boon to liven up meals. I grow them inside on a sunny windowsill and am quite excited about the possibilities available.

Garden Club News

Local Happenings

Spreydon Garden Club made a round trip to Oxford on a beautiful day visiting three different gardens, including a hundred year old cottage with everything from quirky broken pottery set in paths to patchwork.

At their March meeting **Stratford** had the ranger from the Botanic Gardens as their speaker. The talk included interesting facts about the history of the Gardens, how decisions are made on plantings and many other tidbits of information.

Kerri-Anne from Garden City Florists demonstrated a handheld bouquet with cheerful, informative chatter at the February meeting of **St Albans Garden Club**. Members also enjoyed an afternoon outing to Terra Viva followed by afternoon tea in the café.

Fendalton Garden Club met in February and an outstanding Show Table reflected the dedication and loyalty of the members. A member of the Herb Society entertained and informed the members on the nurture and uses of various herbs. **Wairarapa** had Maureen Day speak on propagation. Maureen also brought along some specimens to demonstrate her talk.

Darfield would like to suggest that a visit to Planting of Canterbury Native Trust at West Melton is now 18 months old and is well worth a visit. **Avonhead** had a fun evening with a demonstration on how to make a bouquet using a hydrangea head as the base. There were some wonderful examples and everyone went home with a bouquet.

Rangiora Garden Club had a day out visiting "Chillies and Peppers" in Tram Road followed by a visit to "The Barn on Giles" with lunch in the garden. **Ilam** celebrated 60 years in April but sadly this was their last meeting as the Club is closing due to lack of members. **Ikebana International** was visited by an Ikebana group from Kurashiki who also took part in the March Japan Festival.

Springston Garden Club visited the delightful gardens of Pip Waters, Marion Crowe and Annette Hurford in Rangiora. In March they explored Sue Jackson's Garden in Rakaia and the prize winning gardens of Niven & Thelma Murch and Frances & Brian Nelson. In April Ashburton's Daphne & Jim Allison's prize winning garden was exquisite.

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

Spring Flower Show

Sat 22 & Sun 23 September 2012
Canterbury Horticultural Centre

Autumn riots [of colour] about to break out!

John Clemens *Curator, Christchurch Botanic Gardens*

All trees lose leaves, even year-round evergreens have their season of greater leaf fall. But in winter-deciduous trees and shrubs the loss of leaves is complete in autumn, before new leaf expansion resumes in spring. Winter takes effect early on maples, oaks and elms, creating beautiful riots of red, amber, from as early as March.

A green leaf is green because of the presence of a pigment known as chlorophyll. When they are abundant in the leaf's cells, as they are during the growing season, the chlorophylls' green color dominates and masks out the colors of any other pigments that may be present in the leaf. Thus the leaves of summer are characteristically green.

Traditional teachings had us believe that when the green departs, autumn's ambers appear; and while colourful pigments, they were really no more than attractive waste products. We now know that the colours of autumn are not just an exposé of colourful rubbish. The leaves of some trees go out of their way to make what we see as autumn colours, consuming valuable sugars in the process.

Why do these winter-deciduous plants do this when the leaves will soon be shed from the

plant? One explanation is that red pigments or anthocyanins, protect the leaves from sun damage at a crucial stage when the plant is actively preparing to shed. New Zealand scientist Kevin Gould is an expert in this field. He has shown the protective function of leaf anthocyanins in a range of plants, including some of our native plants that have year-round red leaf colourations.

Other explanations for autumn colours abound, including different sunlight protective strategies that do not involve the red anthocyanins, and plant stress. The intensity and timing of leaf colours vary from year to year, but it will be interesting to see if we can detect unusual autumn colours following our earthquakes, especially in areas affected by the stress of liquefaction.

More poetically, autumn colour is a signal to bring the harvest home, lay down stores of food for winter, and keep warm! Our City's deciduous trees are making their own preparations, each in its own way.

Visit the Gardens (open from 7am to 6.30pm all winter) to see the last of the autumn colours.

**Christchurch
Botanic Gardens**

Loving Winter

From Terra Viva

Winter is a great season – it just gets bad press! Winter rains replenish the water table, winter frosts kill the residual pests, and the frosts bring those brilliant crisp still sunny days. And winter snow on the mountains gives us a picture-postcard-perfect environment, and the snow entices the skiers from Australia for our tourist industry.

And winter in the garden is not at all dull – think of the colours of early winter – the orange-red tones of flowering cherries, liquidambers, viburnums, oak-leaf hydrangeas, fiery red nandinas (especially Gulfstream). And then later on there's the wonderful red berries on pyracantha (a wonderful evergreen for trimming, espaliering etc). Think of the colours of hellebores, primrose/polys, pansies, primulas.

No sooner have we got into the colder months than we get glimpses of the new coming season – new roses arrive in the garden centres, along with rhododendrons, camellias, fruit trees, deciduous trees, and treats like lily bulbs and daphnes. And of course there's always lots of primrose/polys and pansies already in flower to brighten up pots and that's one of the keys to a good look for winter – just keep your pots in focal points full of colours.

So enjoy working out in the garden on those sunny mid-winter days. Hopefully by the time regular rain arrives we'll all have got our gardens tidy to avoid stamping round on waterlogged soil which compacts it too much.

Roses are best pruned towards the end of July – if you're not sure how to prune them just call in and we can give you all the advice you need.

If your blue hydrangeas were more like pink then make sure you apply Hydrangea Blueing Tonic (Aluminium Sulphate) every two weeks over winter – I used it last winter and it worked a treat.

And start to make plans for the spring garden – maybe a change of colour schemes, maybe a make-over of the shrubbery – dreaming and planning are essential for keen gardeners!

Peter Worsp - Terra Viva Home & Garden

Terra Viva has become an iconic Christchurch destination, combining three of peoples' favourite pastimes into one attractive complex.

Enjoy the full-of-ideas garden centre, the inspiring homewares & giftwares department, and then relax in the fully-licensed cafe.

www.terraviva.co.nz

RAMBLERS 2012

Getting To Know Your City

- 12 Jun **Hagley Park**
Meet at CHS Centre
- 26 Jun **Farnley Reserve**
Meet on Palantine Tce near Centaurus Road, Cashmere
- 10 Jul **Radley Park**
Meet at park, Cumnor Street off Radley Street, Woolston
- 24 Jul **Otukaikino**
Meet round the corner on Main North Road where motorway begins, Belfast
- 14 Aug **Spencer Park Walkway**
Meet by Ranger's office
- 28 Aug **Wairakei**
Meet at Grant Armstrong Park, Isleworth Road, Bishopdale
- 11 Sep **Styx Mill Reserve**
Meet at Husseys Road entrance

Walks take place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and start at 9.30am.

More info: www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers
Inquiries: CHS Office tel: (03) 366 6937

MEMBERSHIP

New subscription rates are a reality for the 2012 / 2013 CHS membership year.

Canterbury Horticultural Society has held the same rates at single \$30 and double \$40 for several years and the need to address the rates has finally caught up with the CHS. Management have reluctantly introduced an increase for the coming membership year commencing July 1, 2012 to single \$40 and double \$50.

Membership benefits remain with reduced entry rates to All About Gardening, tours, events that the Society operates.

Management look forward to developing closer links with a range of commercial opportunities to enhance the members benefits, recognising that as gardeners you are a discriminating group of purchasers.

New Look Website

We have updated the website and would love your feedback on usability. www.chsgardens.co.nz for news, tips & more