



Green Infrastructure

Alan Jolliffe, CHS Board Member

When flying back from Nelson recently the flight attendant noted that we will shortly be landing in the Garden City. She did not even say Christchurch but everyone knew what she meant.

Fortunately such a title can mean different things to different people as everyone will have their own image in their mind's eye.

To some it will be trees, others flowers and still more will have images of English gardens, New Zealand native landscape or food production on various scales.

With such a diversity of image there needs to be a green infrastructure holding it all together. Such a green infrastructure probably comes in two forms.

Trees: Trees provide that tall vertical green infrastructure and more importantly can act as signposts or landmarks within our city.

We have lost so many landmarks we need to create new ones with great tree planting. Flowering trees, forestry trees, fruiting trees, native trees, ornamental trees, large trees, small trees. Such a variety is needed from a visual and liveable city viewpoint.

Green swaths: Large green open spaces that provide networks and linkages throughout the city that provide a horizontal green infrastructure. They may be narrow or wide, along streams and rivers or linkages from one area to another.

These two elements combined will provide us with a green backbone in which humans, animals, birds, fish and insects can live side by side. From such a backbone the creation of special vibrant spaces can be developed using our fantastic horticultural talent to make this a spectacular city.



Alhambra Gardens

With the help of Landscape Architect Robert Watson and the Life in Vacant Space Trust we have secured the use of a site on the corner of Armagh and New Regent Street for an unspecified period of time. We have received funding support from the City Council's Central City Recovery Unit for a Spanish-themed garden to complement the architectural style of New Regent Street. We've called it Alhambra Gardens. Over the coming weeks a mix of CHS members, suppliers and Student Volunteer Army members will begin the transformation of this high profile but currently desolate site into an inner city oasis of exotic trees and plants. It will form a restful space for people-watching,



Rollickin
Gelato Caravan

enjoying organic gelato from Jed's onsite caravan and help folk to reconnect with the central city. It will help to promote the CHS as a vibrant, outward-looking organisation doing its bit for the rebuild of the City.

Tony Kunowski, CHS Manager

Merry Christmas!

Parking is again a problem. Rowena has had to vacate her home for the Cricket plans, so we can no longer have the drive locked off over night.

While we own our building, we only lease the land under it, not the parking area which means we have no jurisdiction over parks except those reserved in front of our building. The rest are under the control of the Christchurch City Council who have to abide by government laws which prevent any more parking near us.

Christchurch Hospital temporary parking is still available at present, but please be prepared to come by bus, taxi or car pool whenever possible as from now on it will be on a first in first served basis.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped at the A&P Show and in replanting the hanging baskets in Cashel Mall.

Wishing you every good wish for the festive Season

Elizabeth Peacock

Calendar of Events

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The CHS office will close at 12pm on **Friday 20 December**

From **Monday 6 to Friday 10 January** office hours will be 10am-2pm

Regular hours commence from **Monday 13 January 2014**

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thu 19 December 3.45pm-5pm

Christmas Bouquets PC Browne Room

CHS RAMBLERS

Tue 10 Dec 9.30am **Victoria Park**

Meet in car park over-looking play area.

(Please bring something to share for a Christmas morning tea).

LOCAL EVENTS

Christchurch Santa Parade 2013

Sun 8 Dec 2pm **Riccarton Road**

Starts cnr of Wharenui & Riccarton Roads and ends approx 3.15pm cnr Mandeville Street & Riccarton Road.

YMCA Carols By Candlelight

Tue 24 Dec 9-10pm **Latimer Square**

Canterbury Orchid Society

Mon 2 Dec 7.30pm Watling Room

Garden Club Reps Meeting

Tue 3 Dec 10am PC Browne Room

Fuchsia Circle Xmas Dinner

Mon 9 Dec 5.30pm & Mon 27 Jan 7.30pm
Watling Room

Daffodil Circle

Mon 9 Dec 7.30pm PC Browne Room

Begonia Circle

Wed 11 Dec 7.30pm Watling Room

CHS Volunteers Morning Tea

Wed 11 Dec PC Browne Room

Canterbury Rose Society

Tue 17 Dec 7.30pm PC Browne Room

Floral Art Circle

Thu 19 Dec 1.30pm PC Browne Room

Fuchsia Circle

Mon 23 Dec 6.30pm & Mon 27 Jan
Watling Room

Fruit & Vegetable Circle

Wed 29 Jan 7.30pm Watling Room

Canterbury Orchid Society

Tue 4 Feb 6.30pm Watling Room

Prepare for the Holidays

Iriso Drip Feed Irrigation System NEW AT ODERINGS!



The Iriso drip feed irrigation system is a unique system that automatically waters your plants without mains water, electricity, pumps, batteries

or timers. It is ideal for areas with water restrictions. Once you try this, you will not be without it. The perfect watering solution; you can leave it for weeks at a time and return to healthy plants in the garden, home or office.

From \$9.99, available in store or online at www.oderings.co.nz

Top Tasks December

Flower Garden - Dead head rhododendrons as they finish flowering and prune back any unwanted growth especially from paths and lawn edges.

As weather gets dry water regularly to keep up ground moisture and add mulches to help keep ground cooler and retain moisture.

Plant annuals for Summer colour and pinch out centres to help make them more compact with more flowers. Keep weeding when they are small as they are easier to control and will not have started to compete with other plants.

Watch out for pests and diseases and take control measures if needed.

Lawns - Mow lawns regularly keeping up the height of the mower. Water deeply, apply

feed and treat for grass grub now.

Fruit & Vegetable Garden - Continue successive plantings and sowing of greens, beans and root crops.

Keep up water and liquid feeds on tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers.

Watch out for insects on plants and take action when needed.

Spray apples for coddling moth, black spot and mites now as this will give best results for the rest of the season.

Keep weeds down with the hoe - best done in the morning on a warm day, the day before watering.

Cover strawberries and other soft fruits with bird netting, allowing fruit to ripen on the plant for best flavour.

Tour with us

December is all about **Ellerslie Garden Tours**

and we have a wonderful programme beginning late February to coincide with the Ellerslie International Flower Show.

Brochure & ticket sales available now

Ramblers Alpines in Flower Field Tour
Look, Learn & Enjoy **Day Tour**
Friday 6 December 2013 **Bookings open**

Summer Gardens

Look, Learn & Enjoy **Day Tour**
10am - 3pm Thursday 20 February 2014
Dalkeith, Broadfields and The Grange;
concluding with a visit to Texture Plants.
\$20pp Car Pool \$3 **Bookings open**

West Coast Wonders & Beyond

14 - 16 March 2014 **Short Break**
A true West Coast experience with guide Patsy Tainui. **Brochure available soon**

Misty Mountains & Doubtful Sound

Cruise 7 - 13 April 2014 Details December

Have a great Christmas and we'll see you on tour soon! Freda, Gail & Patsy

Visit our website for full listings or contact tours@chsgardens.co.nz

We would love to meet you on tour!



Quiz Time

Give the common name for these plant genera?

1. Phormium
2. Papaver
3. Helianthus
4. Cordyline
5. Helleborus

Answers online www.chsgardens.co.nz

Summer Gardens

West of the City

10am - 2.30pm Thurs 20 February 2014



Half day tour visiting three stunning and very different private gardens including **The Grange**, home of Lynda & Richard Bell, dedicated CHS members.

Cost: \$20 CHS Members Car Pool \$3
Morning tea provided

Bookings: CHS Office tel: (03) 366 6937

Email: tours@chsgardens.co.nz

Plot to Pot

Quick and Easy Low-Fat Fruit Cake

Ingredients

- 1 kg mixed fruit
- 2 ½ cups orange juice
- ½ cup whisky
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 cups self raising flour



Soak fruit in juice and whisky overnight
Pre-heat oven to 160C fan bake (180C conventional).

Add flour and vanilla to fruit mixture.
Pour into tin and bake for 1 ½ - 2 hrs

Green Delight

Ingredients

- 1 cup of fresh peas (per person)
- 1 cup of broad beans (per person)
- Mint leaves (5-6 per person)
- Pecarino or Parmesan cheese (1 tablespoon per person)
- Olive oil (2 tablespoons per person)
- Juice of one lemon

Good quality French stick or ciabatta bread
Mash all ingredients except the bread in a mortar with pestle until a paste is formed. Season lightly with salt and freshly ground pepper. Adjust seasoning to taste.

Slice bread into rounds, wipe lightly with half a clove of garlic and toast.

Add paste and top with baby bocconcini and a fine slice of red pepper for a Christmas look!

All About Gardening 2014

All About Gardening resumes in February 2014. Visit www.chsgardens.co.nz/about/all-about-gardening in the New Year to view the programme.

All About Gardening Dates 2014 February 2014

7pm - 8.45pm Tuesday 4 February
9.45am - 10.45am Wednesday 5 February

March 2014

7pm - 8.45pm Tuesday 4 March
9.45am - 10.45am Wednesday 5 March

April 2014

7pm - 8.45pm Tuesday 1 April
9.45am - 10.45am Wednesday 2 April

CHS Centre, South Hagley Park
Members: \$5 non-members: \$10
Tea, coffee and refreshments included

Don't forget you can find a copy of Michael Coulter's **Monthly Tips & Tasks** on our website: www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/all-about-gardening/tips-tasks