



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
 Newsletter No 220 December 2015
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 CHS Centre: office hours 9am – 4pm
 www.chsgardens.co.nz
 facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety



We wish you a Merry Christmas
Holiday opening hours

The CHS Office will close at 4pm on Wednesday 23 December and reopen on Monday 11 January 2016

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

December 2015

Christmas is coming – let the festivities begin...

Tuesday 1 December 7pm
& Wednesday 2 December 9.45am

The Plainsmen Perform (Tuesday session only)

These celebrated singers entertain with a selection of Christmas carols, old and new.

A Visit to Chelsea (Wednesday session only)

Creators of award winning gardens, CHS members Brian and Janet Lovelock whisk us away to the 100th Chelsea Flower Show.

From your Gardens - Lilies Galore

Bring your lilies - any shape, any condition - and we will share lily growing experiences, tips and advice.

Let's get Creative - CHS members provide ideas for unique Christmas gifts

Fairy Gardens

CHS member Isabel Snyder creates tiny fairy gardens – the perfect Christmas gifts for imaginative children of all ages and Mossy Terrariums with Tim of Magic Moss, who makes unique terrariums with a Kiwi touch that will enhance any decor. Both will have items for sale so you can make your own personalised living gifts.

Members: \$5.00 non-members: \$10.00
Festive morning tea/supper included

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Special thanks to all our members who led and participated in our display at the A&P Show. I saw many people talking to us there and this is an important part of our outreach programme.

Christmas is almost upon us and we are all planning family events. There is no better environment for this than in the garden, sharing food from each other's garden and decorating with flowers and foliage from the garden.

This year why not give someone a gift subscription to the CHS? Participating in our various activities will stimulate ideas for an even better garden and lifestyle.

In my advice to people about their gardens over Summer I suggest the best thing they can do is enjoy the

garden. Live in it, eat it, use it as an extra room, have fun. If you want to make changes get a small notebook and write down the changes you would like to make and leave it until Autumn.

Planning is underway for 2016. Shortly we will be issuing a Calendar of Events so you can see at a glance what the CHS is planning for the year ahead. Share these with your friends and family and they may also wish to come along to these. You will notice we are a very busy organisation and there is a great variety of things to do.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and Summer break and we will get together in 2016 for another full year of interactive activities.

Alan Jolliffe *CHS President*

Christmas Quiz

- Who dreamed of a White Christmas?
- Who sang of mistletoe and wine?
- Of which Jewish king was Jesus a descendant ?
- Why was Joseph going to Bethlehem?
- Who was Snoopy's nemesis?

answers: www.chsgardens.co.nz

A & P Show

Advice & guidance appreciated



Plant of the Month

*Dwarf Italian Lavender
Joyful Series*

The Horticultural Events Committee once again flew the CHS flag at the show.

It was pleasing to be visited by many young people who are keen to establish gardens post-earthquake and were looking for advice and guidance.

Vegetables, herbs, flowers and shrubs on display drew many interested folk to us. Old timers were particularly interested in the John Taylor tools collection and spent time reminiscing about how they used them in bygone times.

Many thanks to the willing members who cheerfully involved themselves in the construction, supervision and removal of the display.

Annette Hill



Introducing the new Dwarf Italian Lavender Joyful series.

This lovely wee Lavender stays compact with grey-green foliage topped with deep beautiful flowers. Choose from Joyful Cherub or Joyful Bliss. Very showy in pots or the garden.

Available from **Oderings Garden Centres**

www.oderings.co.nz



NEW LOOK AAG!

February 2016

Tuesday 2 February 7pm

& Wednesday 3 February 9.45am

The 2016 AAG programme has some new features and a more interactive format which we are sure you will enjoy.

Visit www.chsgardens.co.nz in the new year to view highlights from the February programme and to check out what's new.

CHS CIRCLES

Daffodil Circle

Mon 14 December 7.30pm Watling Room

Chrysanthemum Circle

Mon 14 December 7pm Coulters Nursey

Final potting of charms and cushions.

Bring small festive plate for supper.

Mon 18 January 7.30pm Watling Room

Disbudding & bud securing earlyies. Pest

management. Update on National Show.

CHS CIRCLES

Fruit & Vegeable Circle

Sat 23 January from 4.30pm

BBQ at the Phil & Linda Duckers

Refer to CHS website for what to bring

Wed 27 January 7.30pm Watling Room

Keeping Fit for Gardening

Subs Reminder

Thanks to everyone that has already paid. For those of you who have not, please do so before 20 Dec or call the office tel: 366 6937

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE CHS
CHS Membership for as little as \$22.50!

50%
discount!

Need an inspired gift idea? Complete the form below and return before 7 December and we'll send you a personalised gift voucher. Vouchers are available for single membership: **\$22.50** or double: **\$27.50** and valid until 31 Dec 2016.

Membership Recipient Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Your Payment Details

Pay by credit card for the sum of \$ _____

visa mastercard

Cardholders Name: _____

Card Number: _____

expiry date: ____/____

Online banking for the sum of \$ _____

Pay by cheque for the sum of \$ _____

Your Details (for receipt of gift voucher)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postcode: _____

**Post this completed form to: PO Box 369,
Chch 8140 or pay via eftpos at the office.
Canterbury Horticultural Society Inc.
ANZ 06 0831 0006913 00 Ref [7200]**



Your help is needed!

The 2nd Oderings School Gardens Show will be held at the Woolston Club over the three day period 11- 13 March next year. Co-sponsored by Magic Moss and Daltons we have ten schools signed up already – West Spreydon, West Melton, Shirley Intermediate, Casebrook Intermediate, Oaklands, Northcote, Opawa, St Mark's, Halswell & Parkview and we hope to host 2 more schools. Our main promotional tool will be 100 coreflute signs measuring 1200 x 800mm and we're seeking the cooperation of members in displaying them either on their own or their friends' and neighbours' fences – but only in prominent locations where there are high levels of vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Cul-de-sacs, regrettably, are of little value.

If you can help just call into the office and pick up as many signs as you can handle.

We'll even supply you with the screws needed to affix the signs. Finally, we'd need you to agree to take the signs down upon completion of the Show.



Research Project Participation

We've been approached by the University of Canterbury to assist in a research project "Exploring the wellbeing of independently living community-dwelling older people"

The research is on people 70 years or older who still live within the community

as opposed to those living in retirement complexes. Participants would be asked to complete a small survey on their wellbeing that takes about 15 minutes. All information is anonymous and has no identifying information required. For the research to be valid UC require a large number of participants. It would be more time efficient if they were able to attend meetings where participants can fill in the questionnaire then and there.

Accordingly I have scheduled 3 times as follows: **11am, Mon 7 December; 2pm Tues 8 Dec and 11am Wed 9 Dec** – all in the PC Browne room for meetings with the UC researchers. If you are willing to participate in this project please call the office on: 366 6937 or email me: tony.kunowski@chsgardens.co.nz to confirm which session you wish to attend.

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thu 17 December 3:45 - 5pm Watling Room
For the last session of the year the children are making a posy bowl for the Christmas table.

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Garden Club Reps December
Tue 1 December 10am PC Browne Room
no meeting in January
Tue 2 February 10am PC Browne Room

RAMBLERS 2015

Tuesday 8 December 9.45am
Victoria Park
Meet in car park by children's playground.
Bring a picnic morning tea
No walk if very wet. FREE
The 2016 programme is now available.
Remember to pick up a copy at AAG or visit: www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers
Tuesday 9 February 2016 9.45am
Styx Mill Reserve
Meet in car park Husseys Rd

CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT WORKSHOP *UPDATED*

Monday 14 December 5.30-7.30pm
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre
\$20 includes materials & light refreshments
Create a traditional Christmas Garland for door, mantle or table with UK florist Ursula Wright.
Due to high demand Ursula has agreed to run this additional workshop.
Book via the CHS Office
tel: 366 6937 e: office@chsgardens.co.nz

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *With Michael Coulter*

December, the beginning of Summer and all those flowers, fruit and vegetables to grow and harvest. We are well behind on our rain fall and the ground is very dry so we need to manage our watering well to ensure that our garden will produce good results. Mulching will become more important especially around the shrub border and fruit trees. Watering well will make the plants grow and keep them healthy. Stressed plants are more susceptible to pest and diseases. Weeds also will be a problem with more watering so be sure to keep the hoe going while the weeds are small and leave 2 to 3 days after hoeing before watering to get the best weed control.

Lawns

The hot Summer time is hard on lawns regular watering and feeding will help keep them green.

Do not cut grass too low as the hot sun on the root zone tends to make the grass go dormant.

Flower Garden

Transplant young plants into the garden in the cooler evenings to reduce transplant shock.

Water garden in the mornings if possible so that plants have dry leaves at night.



Hoe weeds in the hottest part of the day to get a good kill of weeds.

Fast growing perennials need to be supported before they get too tall to keep them straight.

Dead head roses and other flowering shrubs to encourage more flowers.

Pinch out the tips of annuals 2 weeks after planting to make them more compact and produce more flowers.

Christmas Eve Spiced Nut Cake with Caramel Frosting



Ingredients

250 g butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup fruit mincemeat
1 cup apricot jam
4 eggs
3 cups flour
¼ cup cocoa
1 tsp ground nutmeg
1 tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground cloves
1 cup natural unsweetened yoghurt
1 tsp baking soda
1 cup raisins
1 cup walnuts, chopped
½ cup pecan nuts, chopped
extra nuts for decorating plus ½ cup red and green glacé cherries

Method

Preheat oven to 180 °C, then grease and flour 3 23cm sponge pans. Cream butter and both sugars in a large bowl. Stir in the fruit, mincemeat, jam and eggs. Mix in the dry ingredients and spices alternatively with the yoghurt. Blend well. Stir in the raisins, walnuts and pecans. Pour the batter into the prepared pans. Bake about 40-45 minutes or until the centre springs back when touched. Allow the cakes to cool in the pans for 10 minutes before turning out. Then allow to cool completely. Place one layer on a serving platter and spread the top with Caramel Frosting. Top with the second layer and spread with more frosting, repeat with the remaining layer. Sprinkle with extra walnuts, pecans and cherries to decorate.

Caramel Frosting

150g butter
1 ½ cups brown sugar, firmly packed
½ cup milk
1 tsp vanilla essence
3 cups icing sugar
Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan. Add the sugar and milk, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Increase the heat and bring to the boil. Remove from heat. Allow to stand until lukewarm - 30 minutes. Stir in the vanilla and whisk, adding the icing sugar until the mixture is creamy in texture.

This is a deep cake that provides an alternative to the traditional Christmas cake and keeps well.

MARGARET WATLING DEMONSTRATION DVD

Relive this wonderful night of floral creativity, camaraderie and humour with a professionally produced DVD now available on order from the CHS (please allow is 10 days for production and delivery).

\$12 order via the CHS office or online: www.chsgardens.co.nz

SUMMER GARDEN AWARDS

Our 2016 Summer Garden Awards have had a revamp. Open to everyone and with loads of new categories it is now even easier to participate in.

Collect an entry form from the CHS office or download one from our website.

Entries close Wednesday 27 January 2016. Judging takes place on Saturday 30 January.

EDIBLE GARDEN AWARDS

Join in a celebration of localised food production. Entries don't close until Friday 19 February so there is plenty of time to get growing! An initiative of the Shirley/Papanui Ward - with entries restricted to this ward.

Collect an entry form from our office or download one from: www.chsgardens.co.nz

FREE

Prune back any excessive growth on trees and shrubs that may be growing over drives or paths.

As Spring bulbs finish their leaf growth and dry off remove leaves and cover over to help stop pests getting at bulbs. Some bulbs like tulips and iris are better lifted each year.

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

Inspect plants to look out for any signs of pest and disease and take control measures if needed.

Make successive sowings and plantings of veggies but give enough time between plantings so that crops do not overlap.

Give fruit trees regular deep watering to

help developing fruit to get to size.

Start to sow crops that will be harvested in the Winter.

Once grapes have finished flowering pinch back growths to 1 leaf passed the bunches to allow light and air to the developing bunches to reduce disease and make the fruit sweeter.

Make regular watering and feeding to tomatoes, remove laterals and tie to



supports.

Harvest fruit and vegetables when they are at their best to help with continuous supply.

Our Monthly Tips & Tasks are published online at: www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/all-about-gardening/tips-tasks

Taranaki Spectacular

Garden highlights reviewed by Freda Hunter



We were a small group this year including two lovely American ladies who joined us in New Plymouth having booked from our website.

The gardens were varied, interesting and truly beautiful, exceeding all expectations and the hosts most hospitable and friendly. The tour was a spectacular experience, aptly named. It was observed with the substantial rainfall and good soils the rhododendrons and many other plants were of high health.

Holyoake Garden is a contemporary garden incorporating a landscaped edible garden. This was full of planters packed with crops about to be harvested - sugar snap peas climbing up a trellis, asparagus, beet and all colours of lettuce to name a few. Tropical fruit like passionfruit, ginger and avocados were also growing in this very productive garden. A beehive was buzzing with bees and the netted berry house produced luscious fruit.

Armstrong Garden is a charming cottage garden featuring colour and fragrance and many self seeding plants such as love in the mist, linaria, olaya, daisies and cerinthe.

A highlight of the **Oakley Garden** was the amazing hanging baskets full of massed annuals. There were also groupings of

different sized pots planted with complementary foliage such as ligularia britt marie crawford, hostas, heucheras, parsley. For colour rhodohypoxis made a statement. The sales table with potted plants propagated from the garden was very popular with the visitors, especially as many of the plants are not available at Garden Centres anymore.

Pukeiti is an exotic rhododendron collection nestled in rainforest. Now owned by the Taranaki Regional Council there are many noticeable improvements and investment in the Park such as walkways, labelling of plants, new tropical gardens for vireyas and more car parking. Many of the rhododendrons were blooming in colour - wow!

Note: to do in the garden

Prune to reduce the size or rejuvenate rhododendrons and camellias. Feed with acid fertiliser around the drip line. Plant any plants purchased on tour to have lasting memories of this Taranaki garden tour - a province rich in horticulture and gardening.



TOUR DIARY



Christmas Tour Reunion

12 noon Friday 4 December

A gathering at the home of Gail Scrivener for Melbourne, WOW Wellington & Taranaki tour participants.

Tai Tapu



Chiang Mai Flower Festival - Thailand

13 Day Longer Break 28 Jan - 10 Feb 2016

Includes 3 nights Bangkok, 2 nights River Kwai, 2 nights Chiang Rai and 5 nights in peaceful Chiang Mai.

Book now: \$5,999 \$550 single supplement

6 places remaining - last opportunity



Norfolk Island Longer Break 24 April - 1 May 2016

Includes return airfares, 3½ star hotel accommodation, return transfers, 6 dinners, 7 breakfasts and a selection of hand-picked Norfolk Island excursions. Great value tour!

Book now: \$2,999 \$175 single supplement



Summer Gardens Day Tour - Wednesday 27 January 2016

Garden View, Cedar Park Gardens and more

Includes morning tea, BYO lunch. Car pool

Book now: \$30 brochure available



WOW World of Wearable Arts Tour - Wellington

October 2016, a repeat of this popular Wellington short break

Brochure & costs available 2016



Holyoake Garden

Tupare Gardens

Spectacular Mt Taranaki

Member of the Month

Richard Smith



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

Born in Christchurch and spent most of my childhood in what was then the small country town of Rolleston.

Where do you live now and with whom?

I live in Bishopdale with my 10 year old ginger tom Beefa, who is also head of bird control.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

Both my dad's and my grandad's expansive vegetable gardens. I also went fruit picking one Summer, which ended up as a 15 year long career in pip and stone fruit production.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

Growing apple, pears, stonefruit and berryfruit. There is always something new at the garden centre and I'm always willing to give it a go.

What's your favourite plant and why?

Five years ago I discovered a plumcot tree at my local Oderings store and have spent the last five years figuring out how to grow them.



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

Learning all about plumcots and its been very challenging to get the pollination right, but I have finally achieved it this year.

When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined about a year ago, to learn more about gardening because you can never know to much and you can never stop learning.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

To continue learning, and also continue to share my knowledge with others.

NEWS FROM HortTalk

HortTalk has been busy this month! We've had queries ranging from curly asparagus to plant identification to our latest post from Alison, "I have a problem with neighbouring cats digging up my newly planted vege seeds and baby plants. Any solutions would be worth trying!"

One answer was "I have read that moth balls are a good deterrent - Maybe cover your plants with bird netting?"

You can see some of the other responses to the right. If anyone has encountered this problem and can share a solution do sign up: www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk

Zoe Heather West I used to think it was the cats but I was up early one morning and saw blackbirds digging things up including succulents
Like · Reply · November 14 at 8:48pm

Pamela Smith Don't use any sheep pellets or blood & bone. You can get natural salts from Oderings which are amazing called Wally's cat repellent
Like · Reply · 1 · November 14 at 9:53pm

David Adams I would buy some light plastic bird netting from somewhere like Mitre 10 and place that over the garden. The vegetables will grow through the netting. More difficult for harvesting root vegetable though so I would tend to staple the netting to a wooden frame until the carrots etc are established enough to survive on their own.
Like · Reply · November 15 at 2:35pm

David Adams Agree with Pamela that animal based fertilisers attract the cats.
Like · Reply · November 15 at 2:36pm



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 Supporter and will be populated as sponsors join the programme. *Details of the programme may be found at www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship*