



# CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society  
 Newsletter No 226 July 2016  
 e: office@chsgardens.co.nz  
 t: (03) 366 6937  
 CHS Centre: office hours 9am – 4pm  
 www.chsgardens.co.nz  
 facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety



## INQUIRING MINDS

Our junior gardeners discovered the Allan Herbarium last month

what's on  
 next  
 month

## ALL ABOUT GARDENING August 2016

Tuesday 2nd 7pm & Wednesday 3rd 9.45am

This month's featured produce: parsnips, hellebores, trilliums. Success and problem plants equally welcome!

All About Gardening returns with a special truffle-inspired session led by Dr Alexis Guerin-Laguette from Plant & Food, Lincoln. Alexis will speak of his research work with Tuber Borchii, Aestivum and Perigord Black Truffles, Saffron Milk Cap, Porcini mushrooms and his work testing truffle orchards. Alexis is an entertaining speaker and always shows his passion for truffles. There will also be a session on breakfasting with truffles - yum!

\$5 Members, \$10 non-members

Morning tea included

CHS Centre, South Hagley Park

## Never miss an AAG Session!

Sign up with your mobile number to receive SMS alerts to all AAG sessions. Simply txt CHS followed by your name to 226 and you'll be added to our list (you can also email us or add your details to the form available at AAG).

## Being values driven

Over two days in August 1988, the United Building Society had \$180million of its depositors' funds withdrawn! Customers had heard rumours that United was in trouble and they rushed to take out their money before the anticipated collapse occurred. Bankers call this a "run on funds". Short of outright collapse it is the worst scenario to befall any financial institution. At its height around \$10million was being withdrawn every 30 minutes!

It was, and still is, common practice for larger organisations to have a Crisis Management Plan in which major risks are assessed and mitigating strategies identified and promulgated throughout the organisation. United had no such plan. Although it had become market-driven in response to Roger Douglas's rapid deregulation of the finance sector, its history was that of a "mutual" and accordingly its management and staff operated in a sharing, caring and cooperative culture.

So despite the huge queues at every branch throughout the country, frontline tellers acted sensitively and expeditiously with customers as they withdrew their funds. Most wanted cash not cheques and this meant a lot more work per transaction for tellers, supported nobly by truck after truck of Armourgard bringing the cash in. Staff continued working well into the evening, with many branches not closing until 10pm compared with the normal 5pm. Even United's competitor Countrywide had their staff bring tea, coffee and cakes to show their empathetic support!

### What's all this got to do with the CHS you ask?

Although it may not be immediately apparent to members the Society is facing a long emergency! We are losing members due to old age or infirmity and they are not being replaced at a fast enough rate by younger members so our membership base is steadily eroding.

cont inside



# Kokedama Workshops

Terra Viva



What an inspiring and exciting weekend we had at the Kokedama workshops held at Terra Viva. The CHS partnered with Terra Viva to run these events which were organised and run by members of the Horticulture Events committee.

The Saturday workshops filled very quickly and we needed to have an overflow session on the Sunday morning. It was amazing to see the creativity and enthusiasm coming from the participants with each one creating at least two Kokedama balls, some did quite a few more!

It was great to see so many people getting their hands in the peat moss and binding the sphagnum moss around the plant material to create the tight ball needed to form the Kokedama. The range of plant material used was interesting, from bedding plants to herbs, vegetables and even one peace lily which looked amazing. The mini cyclamen were also a big hit with many.

The only care these balls need is a soak in a bucket once a week and when the plants have finished the ball can be chopped up and put in the garden where it will break down very quickly. Kokedama literally means moss ball and is a Japanese creation. Magic Moss has adapted the artform to New Zealand conditions and materials and we are very lucky to have this new skill to share.



what's on  
*this*  
month

## MAGIC MOSS MATINEE

Wednesday 6 July 9.30am

"A Little Chaos" stars celebrated British actors Alan Rickman and Kate Winslet. Winslet is in her lovely, intelligent element as a pioneering garden designer. A great chance to relive those golden childhood memories of popcorn, ice cream and hilarity at that "threepenny rush" matinees! \$5 per head Morning tea included CHS Centre, South Hagley Park

## GARDEN CLUB REPS

Garden Club Reps  
Tuesday 5 July 10am  
PC Browne Room

## LILY BULB AUCTION

Sunday 24 July 2pm, Riccarton Racecourse  
The NZ Lily Society annual auction is a great opportunity to buy a range of lilies at good prices. Good parking, cash/cheque only. Contact Kate Kearns tel: 960 8347 email: kate.kearns@canterbury.ac.nz.

## JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 21 July 3:45 - 5pm  
Watling Lounge

Last month our youngest gardeners enjoyed a visit to the Allan Herbarium in Lincoln. See the photos to the right - they looked like they had a fascinating trip!

## CHS CIRCLES

Floral Art Circle  
Thursday 21 July 1.30pm  
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre





# Being values driven *cont...*

The Board is well aware of this potentially devastating trend and is developing strategies to address it. Clearly standing still and doing nothing is not an option! We recognise that change is imperative and that a very real risk is that actions taken to attract a younger cohort of members may easily alienate existing members, so it behoves us to identify and share our Core Values that will underpin all our actions and behaviours – these are our commitments, ones we will not compromise on.

- **Learning and sharing.** We commit to sharing knowledge, information and ideas
- **Trust and integrity.** We commit to maintaining high ethical standards
- **Interaction and fun.** We seek to maximise interactive and fun activities
- **Creativity and innovation.** We are committed to finding new and better ways of doing things

These values cannot be imposed. The Board and staff can demonstrate them in their respective roles. Indeed it is essential to do so. It's called "walking the talk". Nothing is guaranteed to confine a set of ideas to the dustbin of history more quickly than "lip service" from those who enunciate them!

We therefore invite members to also adopt these values in

their involvement, great or small, in CHS affairs. This means for example accepting that we will need to trial new activities and moreover that some of these will fail. In the corporate world it has long been acknowledged that "experimentation" is the lifeblood of creativity and innovation. It's also been said that whilst management focuses on "doing things right", leadership focuses on "doing the right things". It's of no use at all striving to produce widgets more efficiently if the world doesn't want or need more widgets.

All of us at the CHS must recognise the huge challenges to our survival and the need to embrace change with boldness, vision and vigour! Some initiatives will inevitably fail but they should do so on their own merits or lack of rather than any "Statler & Waldorf" brickbats from within.

We also need to recognise that in endeavouring to meet the needs of diverse groups as our primary survival strategy we need to become an "ambidextrous organisation" which is defined as: 'an organization's ability to be efficient in its management of today's business and also adaptable for coping with tomorrow's changing demand'. Just as being ambidextrous means being able to use both the left and right hand equally, organizational ambidexterity requires the organizations to use both exploration and exploitation techniques to be successful.



## RAMBLERS 2016

*Tuesday 12 July 9.45am*  
**Upper Riccarton**

Meet road end of New World car park

*Tuesday 26 July 9.45am*  
**Bryndwr**

Meet at Edgar MacIntosh Park, Condell Ave

No walk if very wet. FREE  
[www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers)

## SHARE YOUR GARDEN

Are you a gardener with a favourite season? Would you be happy to show off your seasonal style to a small group of CHS members?

If you have something special to share - from perfect peonies to handsome hostas - we would love to hear from you.

Register your interest online, at All About Gardening or via the CHS Office on tel: 366 6937

## MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*



Winter has started with some changeable weather and frosts but so far there has not been any extremes. Now that the shortest day is past, our thoughts turn to the Winter work around the garden.

Pruning fruit trees and roses are the main plants for this time of the season but other shrubs and trees can also be pruned; it is often easier to see the shape and branches to be cut while the leaves are off.

Many perennial plants may be cut back as soon as the tops have died off, they can also be lifted and divided to keep them healthy and from getting too big.

I always remove the dead leaves from over the hostas as I think it helps to remove eggs of slugs that may over Winter in the crowns of the plants.

The poppies and pansies that I planted in the Autumn are starting to flower and remind me to remove spent flowers from any plants that are in bloom to encourage continual flowering.

# Winter Speaker Series

## Our Living Landscape - Plants of the East

*A typical assemblage of eastern NZ plants*



**Thursday 14 July 7pm**

**Natures Rock Gardens - unique plants of the volcanic rock outcrops and coastal cliffs of Banks Peninsula**

*Di Carter*

**Thursday 11 August 7pm**



**M J Barnett Memorial Lecture  
Natural Born Weed Killers: A Key Weapon for the War on Weeds**

*Lynley Hayes*

This series of stimulating talks culminates next month in the M J Barnett Memorial Lecture. Talks start 7pm in the CHS Centre. *Light refreshments will be served.*

**FREE** to CHS Members, \$5 Students  
\$10 Non-members.

Purchase online or from the office:  
office@chsgardens.co.nz tel: 366 6937

Our second Winter Speaker Series saw Colin Meurk presenting *Plants of the East, Near and Far*. Actually Colin focussed on Canterbury; by using graphs of rainfall and altitude he showed the close relationship that exists for each of the complex ecosystems that are found across the spectrum from highest peaks to lowland swamps, from the extremely wet rain forests to the arid plains of the east.

We were introduced to tree species by altitude and rainfall; both native and exotic, many of which have come to us from Mediterranean regions. He explained that most of the plains had previously been forested but were burnt off in pre-European times by Maori. Small pockets of Totara and Matai survived this regime and are still to be found in gullies, such as on Banks Peninsula. Some swampy areas have retained their Kahikatea stands, notably Riccarton bush.

A recent interest of Colin's are Canterbury's amazing sky-scapes, he presented some exciting shots of these for us, explaining that these have become much more dramatic in the last few years. Surprisingly his favourite plants are 'grey scrub' plants; we got some close-up views of these treasures to whet our appetites for them too.

He continues to push for Canterbury gardeners to plant native. One of his key recommendations is the white flowering Kanuka (below left), which flowers profusely around Christmas time and appears to be covered in snow, so he refers to it as the Canterbury Christmas Tree.



## PRUNING WORKSHOPS

**Pruning Fruit Trees**  
*Saturday 2 July 10am - 12 noon*  
West Spreydon School

**Pruning Roses, Hydrangeas & other shrubs**

*Saturday 16 July 10am - 12 noon*  
20 Longstaffs Road, Halswell  
(bring your secateurs to have a go)

*FREE for Members \$10 Non-Members*  
Morning tea included

Register with the CHS office tel 366 6937 or  
pay online: [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz)

## BOTANIC D'LIGHTS

*Its time to celebrate Winter!*

**3-7 August 2016 6-9pm**

Don't miss the Botanic Garden's annual extravaganza of lights.

Dress warm with sensible shoes & bring a gold coin donation.



## HORTICULTURE FUNDAMENTALS COURSE

**10 August - 7 September 2016 5.30pm**  
PC Browne Room, CHS Centre

A fantastic opportunity to learn the basics of horticulture in a concise 5 week, 6 session course led by David Milne, a qualified NZQA Agribusiness Training tutor. Also includes a practical session on Saturday 20 August.

**Cost \$130**

Enrolment & payment online (close 4 August)  
[www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz) or via the CHS Office  
tel: 366 6937 office@chsgardens.co.nz

## MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*

Many Spring bulbs will be starting to emerge so one needs to be careful when working in and around the garden so as not to damage them. The very big old leaves on hellebores can be cut back so that the flowers will then be seen above the plants.

In the vegetable garden garlic, shallots and broad beans may be planted, green crops dug in and lime incorporated into the areas where brassicas are going to be planted in the Spring.

On those nice sunny afternoons it is a good time to weed around the leeks and other vegetable plants so that they will keep on growing without competition from the

weeds, which always seem to grow faster than the plants.

Now is the time to lift and divide rhubarb, replant in soil with plenty of compost and fertiliser, and in an area that gets plenty of sun and can be well watered.

Renew geranium plants by taking cuttings now before the frosts cut them back too hard.

During the colder days while inside in the warmth take time to think about the coming season and plan what plants, seeds and fertilisers etc... that you need and also consider if there are any plants in the garden that may be past it and may

be better replaced. By doing that one can spread the cost over a longer period of time rather than trying to do it all at one time in the Spring.

Good gardening!

If you are thinking about your Spring garden now why not consider entering the **CHS Spring Garden Awards?** Entry is free and we have some great prizes from Oderings for category winners. The August newsletter will have more details about how to enter.



# NZ Flower & Garden Show

## Auckland & Waiheke Tour



Details about the inaugural New Zealand Flower & Garden Show have recently been revealed. To be held at the iconic location of Okahu Bay and Bastion Point in the heart of Auckland's Eastern Suburbs, the show will run from Wednesday 23rd to Sunday 27th November 2016.

Managed by an experienced flower and garden show management team which includes multi-award winning designer and international judge Kate Hillier it promises to deliver:

Hillier says there will be many enhancements in this inaugural New Zealand Flower & Garden Show from other events, in particular a focus on community and culture. The show will also reflect changes in international trends, with organic and edible gardens becoming a feature.

**"The New Zealand Flower & Garden Show is the time for New Zealand's top gardening and landscape design talent to shine. Visitors to the show will not have seen anything like it before, with designers' jaw-dropping creations set to guarantee a visual feast.**

**We expect to host more than 100 horticultural and floral art displays in 10 categories with exhibitors coming from New Zealand and around the world. I'm certain that local and**

**international judges will find it difficult to choose the Best in Show winner! What's more, as so much has changed over the last few years in garden design and the way we Kiwis live, the gardens and fabulous things on show will celebrate and inspire a whole new way of enjoying the outdoors.**

**Our objective is to create a show that will attract national and international exhibitors and visitors to Auckland, and to put New Zealand back on the world stage of garden and floral design."**

The spectacular venue of Okahu Bay will undoubtedly be a major feature being such a stunning location.

Wayne Pihema, Chairman of Whai Maia Limited, speaking on behalf of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei says that the Iwi is excited to see their land used for the show.

**"The Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei have a very strong connection with the land. We are committed to the preservation and restoration of the flora and fauna on our whenua (land) to a state where the "mauri", or life force, of the land is thriving. It is fitting that Bastion Point and Okahu Bay should be a meeting place for designers of all nations who share our love of the visual and spiritual properties of plants."**

## TOUR DIARY



### Amuri Garden Tours

Thursday 27 October - Overnight

Enjoy delicious local fare and handicrafts at the Culverden fête before exploring a private garden in the unique alpine destination of Hanmer Springs and surrounds. **Brochure available. Book now: \$499**



### Auckland Flower Show & Waiheke Island

Short Break - 23 - 26 November

**Register your interest now** (brochures will be sent to those who have already registered).



### Look & Learn Programme

September - December

Enjoy informal visits to members' gardens on seasonal topics.

**See flyer for details**



### Blooming Tasmania Flower & Garden Show

Launceston, Tasmania

Longer Break - 19 - 28 September 2017

Register your interest now



The broad range of exhibits will provide something of interest for everyone - from the hobby gardener to the horticultural professional

### Gardens

Student Designer of the Year  
Display Gardens  
School Gardens  
Balcony Gardens  
Cultural Displays  
Bedding Displays

### Marquees

Community Gardens  
Floral Art  
The Garden Shed

### Retail Exhibits

[www.nzflowergardenshow.co.nz](http://www.nzflowergardenshow.co.nz)

# Member of the Month

Ray King

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

I was born in Wales and came to New Zealand when I was 4 so I am really a Kiwi!

## Where do you live now?

Peter and I live in Palazzo Lane in Riccarton right next to Hagley Park South.

## What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

Gardening was just a part of my childhood. My father was in the Navy and spent most of his time away but my earliest recollections were of Mum doing the gardening and us kids eating veges from our own garden. Star Seeds used to run school gardening competitions and I remember winning an award for my silverbeet, that must have been over 60 years ago but I still remember how proud I was of that silverbeet! Since then whenever possible we have always had some sort of garden even trying to grow kumara from peelings in a pot on our balcony in Singapore.

## What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

Now of course I chair the Horticulture Events committee at the CHS where we try to bring a range of interesting horticultural events for our own members and for members of the public. We also have a small but productive inner city garden. We like to grow as many of our own veges as possible in such a small place and have many grafted fruit trees so we usually have something fresh to use, at the moment we are picking our own limes!

## What's your favourite plant and why?

I can't say that I have a particular favourite plant but I love anything that brings the birds and bees into my garden. At the moment the birds are finishing off the last of the crab apples



and the bees are enjoying the little yellow chrysanthemums that are still flowering.

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

When we first moved into our home here in Christchurch 13 years ago, the garden had just been put in by a well-known landscape gardener. The previous owners had not wanted any flowers just a structured garden of different tones of green and grey so in the intervening years we have slowly changed this without losing the overall structure of the original plan. We now have roses climbing along the walls, fruit trees where grey toned olive trees stood and pots of colourful annuals to brighten up the garden.

## When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined the CHS about 10 years ago. Ruth Bird rang me one day when I was president of Ikebana International and suggested that I join the CHS Garden Reps committee, I did and here I am.

## What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

The CHS has a wonderful opportunity to help Christchurch to once again become the garden city. Not just a city of pretty garden beds but a city with a vibrant environment for us all to live in. I want to see more native trees planted to bring back all the lovely birds. Nut trees and fruit trees so people can enjoy their beauty at all times of the year, blossoms in Spring, shade in Summer, produce and beautiful leaves in Autumn and their stark beauty in Winter.

By joining forces with other active groups such as Edible Canterbury we have the chance of changing our environment for the better and help make Christchurch a truly "Liveable City".

## JULY IS FRUIT TREE TIME AT ODERINGS!



Once again Oderings will have a great range of fruit trees available for purchase from the start of July.

Recommended for urban dwellers is the dwarf pear tree. Pear Garden Belle is the first truly dwarf variety of pear in New Zealand, growing to just 3m tall (rather than 6+).

Deliciously sweet-flavoured fruit with smooth, soft flesh and green

and mildly russet skin. Ripens in mid-Summer and stores well. An attractive tree with white Spring blossoms, glossy Summer foliage turning to golden-orange Autumn tones.

Best planted near another Pear or Nashi variety for cross pollination.

**Purchase any deciduous fruit tree this month at Oderings and receive a free Waimea 'Grow it yourself A-Z of Edibles' book valued at \$12.95 when you swipe your VIP card.**

Also for each fruit tree purchased go into the draw to win a prize pack worth \$330.

More details can be found online at [www.oderings.co.nz](http://www.oderings.co.nz)



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](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship)