



CHS NEWS

Canterbury Horticultural Society
Newsletter No 234 April 2017

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CHS Centre: office hours 9am – 4pm

www.chsgardens.co.nz

facebook.com/CanterburyHorticulturalSociety



Congratulations Sockburn School, winners of the Peoples Choice Award in the 2017 Oderings School Gardens Show

May AAG

Monday 1st 7pm & Tuesday 2nd 9.45am

what's on
next
month

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

In May we feature **Perennials**, seeding, dividing and cutting back and a presentation from schools involved in the Oderings School Gardens Show.

Also in the programme **From Your Gardens and this month's Tips and Tasks** with Michael, Dave and Alan.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
Plenty of Parking available

Free to CHS Members, \$5 Non-members
Includes tea, coffee and refreshments

Please bring your own carrier bags to take home your own plant purchases limited bags supplied

From the President

The Board is pleased to confirm that the sale of the Horticultural Hall to Canterbury Cricket Trust will proceed on 31 March 2017. All funds gained through the sale will be invested for the best return possible for the benefit of our members through our programmes and activities.

As many of you already know we now run All About Gardening at the Christchurch Bridge Club and this has been a resounding success to date. New members have joined and we have the room set out in a more sociable manner so members can meet each other and exchange information. We have a giant TV screen instead of the data projector and a good sound system. Raffles and plant sales are still available. Come along its warm, modern and friendly and we still have a great programme for you.

At AAG Liz Parder from the office is there to attend to all our Administration activities for members. We have a portable EFTPOS Machine for any payments including plant sales.

We intend to vacate the office on or before 31 March. Our remaining belongings in the Templin Hall etc will be shifted at a more leisurely pace and we will try to avoid double-handling gear as much as possible.

CHS Circle meetings in April may still use the Centre as usual. For all our other activities we have made arrangements for meetings and activities and these will be notified to members in advance as we can't always use the Christchurch Bridge Club premises.

Keep a watch on our website, Facebook page, Newsletter and emails.

Alan Jolliffe



CHS New Office Building
153 Lichfield Street

NEW OFFICES CHS is moving!

Through our involvement in the Otakaro Orchard project we have been offered space on the 1st floor of the building at 153 Lichfield St currently occupied by City Care – JFC joint venture, Hawkins Construction, BECA, Matapopore etc. There is adequate parking on both sides of the low concrete divide – see photo.

The facilities are large enough to host Circle meetings etc so we'll be taking tables and chairs from the PC Browne Room.

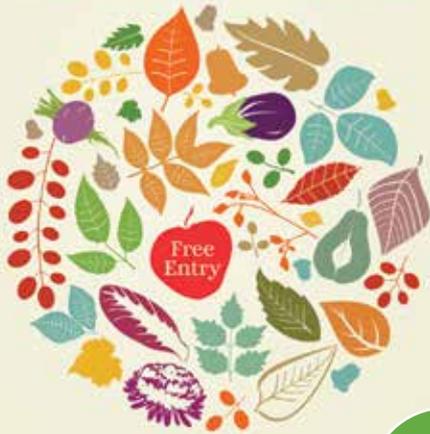
At the time of writing this the legal "Licence to Occupy" has not been signed so if you are planning a visit in the near future please ring the office first to confirm which site we're at, our telephone number remains the same at 366 6937.

Autumn Garden Show

Sponsored by Terra Viva Home & Garden

AUTUMN GARDEN SHOW

Celebrating Autumn
vibrant flowers & plants from alpinas to bonsai



what's on
this
month

AAG APRIL

Monday 3rd 7pm & Tuesday 4th 9.45am
Arrival Cuppa - self serve tea and coffee available for members from 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

Dan Rutherford, a prominent landscape gardener will be the main speaker on "new planting techniques". The following interactive session will focus on planting techniques.

Mini Speaker Confirmed

Michele and Heather from the Canterbury Herb Society present an introduction to herbs. They will show us how to make some simple herbal teas at home as well as offer tastings. There will be herbs for sale so bring some cash.

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

This years show promises to be as colourful and interesting as the last.

We hope you can visit this great FREE event at the Botanic Gardens this month, bring a picnic or enjoy the offerings from the Ilex cafe at the visitor centre.

We have another fantastic line up of participants. Canterbury Horticultural Society's Fruit & Vegetable Circle, Chrysanthemum Circle, Combined Garden Clubs and Floral Art Group will all have displays, and our team will be on hand to talk to people about how to join the Society, and of course, answer any gardening or horticultural questions!

Across from the marquee in the Visitor Centre the Chrysanthemum Circle will have their annual competition with some outstanding blooms to enjoy.

Other participants include:

- Edible Canterbury/Otakaro Orchard
- Friends of the Botanic Gardens
- Floral Designers of Canterbury
- NZ Alpine Garden Society
- Canterbury Herb Society
- Christchurch Beautifying Association
- Canterbury Orchid Society
- Christchurch Bonsai Society



The Autumn Garden Show takes place at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens **Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 April** from 10am -5pm. Entry is free.

CHRYSANTHEMUM CIRCLE

Monday 17 April 7pm
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre
General cultural notes, preparing for Autumn show and allocation of duties.
Staging.

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CIRCLE

Wednesday 26 April 7.30pm
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre

Saving Water

Water storage for the home garden. Tony Beasley, a local retired engineer, has worked for many years on water reticulation and storage in Africa and Sri Lanka. He is presently setting up water systems on a Pacific Island.

MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*



Autumn is almost here and the first of the trees are showing colour and the mornings are cooler with dew on the lawns.

This is a busy time as we need to get our gardens ready for the coming season as well as making the most of the fruit, vegetables and flowers still to be harvested and used.

Many of the tasks that we need to do now will have an effect on plant health and productivity next season, so are very important that they are carried out on time.

At this time of the year we get an abundance of leaves, green matter and pruning matter that will all make very good compost. This is very good for the soil health when dug in next season, so if possible make a compost heap rather than throwing this material away.

Many of our sections are smaller now and will not have room for a compost heap so another method for using this resource is as the ground becomes empty dig a trench about a spade depth across and place the leaves etc at the bottom, then fill the trench in. Repeat this process, gradually working your way across the garden. This works well especially in the vegetable garden.



Winter Speaker Series

Thursday 11 May 7.30pm

AGM

Thursday 20 April 7.30pm

Our 2017 series begins at 7.30pm on Thursday 11 May with Sally Allison speaking on “Heritage Roses – history, literature and modern developments”.

Roses have been a big part of Sally’s life since her early twenties starting in a garden on a bare hillside at Fernside. She is still in this same garden today which continues to change with maturity and continues to have even more roses many of which she has collected as cuttings, grown on and await identification.

A fascination of species and older roses and their history has led to her growing an immense number, many by cuttings, studying them, photographing them, writing about them and being invited to talk about them all over the world.

2016 was an exciting year for Sally receiving the NZ Rose Society Award and the World Rose Society Award which was presented at the World Rose Conference at Lyon France.

The Winter Speaker Series 2017 venue is the Harcourts Grenadier Auction Rooms, 98 Moorhouse Avenue. There is plenty of parking available. The talk starts promptly at 7.30pm



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Canterbury Horticultural Society Inc., will be held in the Harcourts Grenadier Auction Rooms, 98 Moorhouse Avenue at 7.30pm Thursday 20 April 2017.

Nomination of candidates for President, Vice President and Board Members (5), items of general business and any notice of motion must be received at the CHS office no later than fourteen (14) days before the AGM with confirmation in writing from the nominated member. Nominations must be signed by 2 financial members and any notice of motion must be signed by 2 Financial/Honorary Life Members.

The following changes to the Society’s rules have been proposed by the Board:

- Delete clause 10.1 (d) re power to co-opt curator of Botanic Gardens
- Amend clause 10.1 (b) to 4 and up to 6 eligible members of CHS

The Agenda, President’s Report, Annual Accounts and Auditor’s Report will be available from the CHS Office 7 days prior to the meeting by request, and at the meeting. Nomination forms are available from

www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Thursday 20 April 3pm
Meet at the new CHS Offices
153 Lichfield Street

Join tutor Helen Grantham for Asymmetric triangles and preparation for the Autumn Garden Show.

Please bring: oasis wet, bowl or plate
Colours: orange and red
Lesson: Asymmetric triangles

FLORAL ART CIRCLE

Thursday 20 April
Social Group Meeting 1.30pm
Oderings Cafe, Barrington

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 20 April 3:45 - 5pm
Watling Lounge, CHS Centre

RAMBLERS 2017

Tuesday 11 April 9.45am
Plynlimon
Meet by park on Plynlimon Rd

Tuesday 25 April 9.45am
Riccarton
Meet at the CHS, South Hagley Park
No walk if wet. FREE

2017 Programme available online
www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

Fruit & Vegetable Garden

1. Spray stone fruit with a fungicide or copper.
2. Remove any diseased fruit from trees as these can be a source of infection next season.
3. Complete pruning of stone fruit and remove the old fruiting stems of the raspberries and other cane fruit.
4. Harvest pip fruit as it ripens but before it gets over ripe so that it will store better.
5. Pot up any strawberry runners that have rooted in the ground to replace old plants.
6. Sow green crops in the unused areas to improve the soil.
7. Keep citrus well watered to help fruit develop.

Flower Garden

1. Remove Summer annuals as they finish.
2. Plant Spring bulbs.
3. Disbud and tie up chrysanthemums
4. Prepare ground for planting pansy, polyanthus, poppies and other Winter Spring annuals later in the month.
5. Cut back perennials as they finish flowering ready for dividing up later on.
6. Take cuttings of geraniums and fuchsias.
7. Sow sweet peas.
8. Plant some pots of daffodils and other flowering annuals to give colour around the yard.
9. Later in the month is a good time to plant some trees and shrubs before Winter sets in.

Lawns

1. Feed and treat for weeds.
2. Treat for any fungal disease.
3. Treat for grass grub and porina.
4. Treat for moss especially in shady areas.
5. Catch grass clippings and mow regularly.

MID WINTER LUNCH

This annual and entertaining event will be held on Saturday 17 June at the Riccarton Showgate Lounge. Please make a diary note now.

More details to follow in the May newsletter.

Blooming Tasmania Tour

Day 4, 22 September

The Blooming Tasmania & Launceston Flower Show Longer Break runs from 19 - 29 September 2017. A fully guided tour with 11 days of amazing garden visits, 4 star accommodation, return airfares and most meals. **Brochure available from our website www.chsgardens.co.nz**

Woolmers Estate

History, architecture and beautiful gardens are on offer today as we explore the stunning countryside around Launceston with our first visit of the day to Woolmers Estate and National Rose Garden.

Woolmers Estate is a unique and fascinating reflection of colonial life in Tasmania and is one of the most historically significant heritage properties in Australia. The Estate displays an accurate depiction of Tasmanian heritage, preserved and maintained in an original and authentic setting, from establishment in 1817, by Thomas Archer 1st, to the last descendant, Thomas Archer 6th in 1994.

The array of extant buildings, including family houses, workers cottages, former chapel, blacksmith's shop, stables, bakehouse, pump house, gardener's cottage etc, provides an insight into the social structure of a colonial pastoral estate. At an estate of this size a virtual small village was formed where up to a 100 people

might be living and working at one time.

The outstanding Rose Garden will not disappoint, and displays all of the recognized rose families and represents one of the finest collections of historic roses in the southern hemisphere, ranging from the earliest European and China roses through to the roses of the twenty first century.

The plan of the Rose Garden is formal and symmetrical and acknowledges the 19th Century context in which it sits. Some of the beds are planted in such a way that the visitor can enjoy an educational experience, with each variety identified by a nameplate.

The kitchen garden is not to be missed as it adds considerably to the horticultural diversity and visitor interest of the garden as well as reminding visitors that large self-dependent rural estates once relied on their own gardens for fruit, herbs and vegetables to sustain the community.



TOUR DIARY 2017



Blooming Tasmania & Launceston Flower Show

*Longer Break - 19 - 29 September 2017
\$4,799 per person. Brochure available now*



Hurunui Spring Garden Tour

*Day Tour Friday 27 October 2017
Register your interest now*



Spring Gardens Awards Tour

*Friday 6 October 2017 1-4pm
Car pool, no costs. Details to be advised at October
All About Gardening*



Members' Spring Garden Visits

*Late October & November 2017
Watch for flier later in the year*



Geraldine Garden Tour

*Day Tour Wednesday 1 November 2017
Register your interest now*



NZ Flower & Garden Show

*Auckland Mini Break Late November
Register your interest now*

Brickendon Longford

Our next visit is to nearby Brickendon Estate. A rich tapestry of early Tasmanian history is encapsulated at Brickendon. Immerse yourself in the incredible story of the Archer family, assigned convicts, free workers and the beginnings of Australia's pastoral and agricultural industry.

Brickendon is one of Tasmania's oldest farming properties, settled in 1824 by William Archer, the farm has been continuously operated and lived on by his direct descendants, now in their 7th generation.

In July 2010, Brickendon Estate along with its neighbouring property, Woolmers Estate were listed jointly as a World Heritage Site being part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property.

The two Estates are regarded as the most significant rural estates in Australia having the second largest number of convict

workers and still retaining a living history from early European settlement to the present day.

The stunning rural landscape, magnificent heritage gardens, amazing collection of convict constructed buildings, family history and memorabilia are all to be enjoyed by our visitors and cottage guests.

Estate Gardens

The gardens include one of the most unusual collections of trees in a private garden in Australia. Trees of these species and age are found together nowhere else in Tasmania, apart from the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Majestic oaks, elms, pines, cedars, yews and lindens encircle the gardens providing a private world for the Archers, but open for all to enjoy.

The first William Archer laid out the garden and shrubberies in the 1830's. He

designed them in the latest English fashion, the "picturesque", which created a more natural looking landscape than the manicured lawns and rigid pattern of beds of the previous periods. Sweeping carriage drives, hawthorn lined driveways, wilderness shrubberies, extensive rose and perennial plantings, all surround the gracious Georgian Homestead - still home to generations of the Archer family.

The gardens feature an amazing variety of annuals, perennials, flowering shrubs and trees as well as old fashioned roses, camellias, hostas, aquilegia, wisteria, clematis, ornamental fruits and the list goes on - just come, spoil your senses!

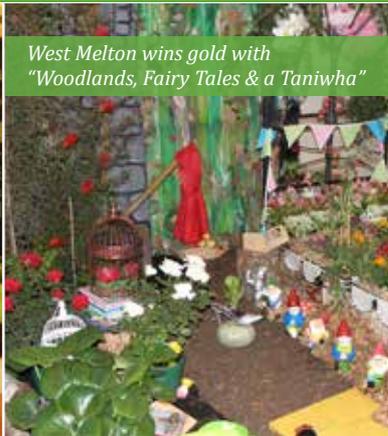


Oderings School Gardens Show

A night of achievement for Canterbury kids



Oaklands "Hansel & Petal" exhibit



West Melton wins gold with "Woodlands, Fairy Tales & a Taniwha"



West Spreydon's Gold for "Once upon a Rainforest"



Opawa celebrate Silver for their Wizard of Oz inspired entry



Judge Dan Rutherford excited with Opawa garden



Oakland's students happy with Silver



"After the Earthquakes" by Sumner School



Shirley Intermediate Principal Geoff Siave & pupils on the Yellow Brick Road"



Sockburn wins Gold and Peoples' Choice awards with "Three Little Pigs" display



St Albans Catholic School wins Gold and Schools' Choice Awards with "The Lorax"



ROSE WORKSHOP

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th June Time TBC
Terra Viva Home & Garden
234 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

Come along and learn all about the pruning and care of roses. Presented by CHS President Alan Jolliffe.

Price to be confirmed.

Tickets available through the CHS office and online soon.

LOOKING AFTER THE SILVERWARE

In preparation for our shift out of the Horticultural Centre long time CHS members Patsy Tainui, Ruth Bird and Elizabeth Peacock did a sterling job photographing and catalogue the Society's Silverware which has accumulated over the years. In recent times the cost of engraving has become prohibitive and these cups are no longer awarded being replaced with certificates. Nevertheless they form an important part of the Society's history and so they must be correctly identified and put into long term secure storage. Just like fashion trends they may live to see another day!



HOW TO... Update an Established Garden from Kowhai Thompson

One question we face when we purchase a property or when we have lived in the same place for some time is: how do we update this garden?

What do we keep? What do we remove? How do we tie this whole garden together?

Gardens constantly evolve over time like a painting. In the words of Paul Gardner "A painting is never finished – it simply stops in interesting places". Much like a garden. This is part of the beauty to be embraced.

There are real benefits to inheriting a clean slate/ new build property such as the freedom to create an entirely new and updated look of your own, but there are also drawbacks. Trees and shrubs take a while to mature and there will be low plant heights initially without much shade. An established garden has pluses and minuses too. There may be trees that are too big, too much

shade and unruly growth or a generally disorganised look with worn materials, faded fences and so on. But it is beneficial to start with an established garden too as there is often good structure and height to work with.

How to begin

1. Identify trees and shrubs which will be kept. Trees that are too tall can sometimes be judiciously pruned. Trees which create too much shade can be thinned. However trees can also just be in the wrong place. Remove.
2. Create groups of plants. If there are a few shrubs here and there, purchase several more of the same kind to make a row or a grouping. This time of year small trees and shrubs can also be lifted and relocated to create a more intentional pattern.

3. Repaint/stain fences and raised beds the same colour. Materials added overtime can be different colours, match them all to create a unified look.
4. Now is a good time of year to resow lawn, gives a fresh look to the garden.
5. Add some trend plants. This season is all about foliage and structure. Add some striking foliage plants such as Pseudowintera Red Leopard and Leucadendron Inca Gold. If you have the funds, create an outdoor room for entertaining. More and more people are embracing indoor/outdoor flow and bringing the cooking into the garden with fire ovens and hardscaped BBQ spaces. Also to update, add lighting.

This is a great start and will give your established garden an updated, refreshed look.



Member of the Month

Nancy Meherne

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

I was born in Wellington in 1929. At six months of age I moved to Ohakune beside Mt Ruapehu with my parents and two brothers. These were the depression days. We had a big vegetable garden and hens in one of Railway Row's little wooden houses. I don't remember flower gardens anywhere but I loved the little colourful wild flowers and the majestic untouched bush nearby.

At 17 we transferred to Christchurch in Hereford Street and spent hours in the Botanical gardens, then to Cashel Street where I cleaned off a stony rubbish heap and planted a colourful garden around a pink bush rose.

I left New Zealand for 3 and a half years in 1952 by boat. This was the very day my husband to be, sailed in to work as a gardener in the Botanical gardens. I spent time in England and the Continent then came back to New Zealand. Doug and I met and married in 1956, living on Clifton Hill where Doug had planted 150 dwarf apples of many varieties. I was often referred to as "The Apple Lady". We had large fruitful gardens surrounded by gums, firs and plenty of natives.

In 1988 we left Sumner and moved to Golf Links Road. We were on two acres with a large organically managed field for growing veggies and fruit. I was commuting to Sumner School but Doug in his sixties managed the land. I spent the weekend till darkness there. After 3 and a half years we returned to another property in Sumner for family reasons.

Where do you live now?

I currently live in Sumner on Head Street. This is where Doug made a charming garden, glasshouse plus cacti and succulent double plastic house.

What aroused your interest in gardening or horticulture?

Gardening was always important in our family. In 1935 Dad was transferred to Wanganui which had the suitable climate for a big vegetable garden. This is where he taught me how to sow seeds with care. I watched for results with great excitement. One of my brothers and I became very keen on this. It was soon the war years and the hose perished. My brother and I watered with jugs and a bucket on his home made cart. I won an award at high school for my gardens.

What gardening or horticultural interests do you have now?

My own garden which provides most of my fruit and vegetable needs, and a colourful flower garden. I am interested in edibles, particularly with encouraging the younger generations to grow food.

What's your favourite plant and why?

I love blue flowers and summer savoury. This is a plant from amongst the herbs I grow and use every day.

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

My experience and the importance of gardens for food and beauty and as a teacher running a garden club. Here I checked on 30 home gardens each year and ran my small classroom garden.

When did you join the CHS and why?

I joined the Society in 2016. My interest in gardens and gardening has never waned and I love visiting other peoples gardens which are often more extensive and superior to mine as I get new ideas of visions of what could be.

What is your passion for the future of the CHS?

To see more children, both primary and high school students involved in planting gardens with activities, visits and education enlarging their knowledge and experience. I did this with a junior Forest and Bird Society in the 70s 80s and 90s with a growing response.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

T-Rex Begonia Ruby Slippers



What a great show again this year for the Oderings School Garden Competition.

We love having the opportunity to help encourage the gardeners of our future, and what a stella job they did again this year.

Plant of the month

Say goodbye to a muted space of green houseplants and say hello to colour with **T-Rex Begonia Ruby Slippers**. The pinkest begonia we have ever seen, with brilliant leaves that grow two handspans in length! Don't shy away from this feminine, bold leaf; it is spectacular.

Available at all Oderings stores or online: www.oderings.co.nz

 **ODERINGS**
GARDEN CENTRES



 **ODERINGS**
GARDEN CENTRES

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Star  Media

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*