



**Tea in my GARDEN**

### Tea in my Garden

Join us for a delightful morning in nature!

Explore unique Waitaha gardens, meet the gardeners, and enjoy a guided tour through their beautiful grounds.

**Pegasus Bay Winery - with Paula Kelly - 13 February**

**Petal & Co with Marion Smith - 13 March**

Meet at the garden at 10.30am, or carpool with friends \$20 (\$30 Non-Members) Includes garden entry, light morning tea. [Book Online Now](#)

### GARDEN LIFE FEBRUARY

#### Paula Kelley

*Pegasus Bay Winery*

**Tuesday 4th 6pm (drinks & nibbles)**

**Meeting start: 6.30pm & Wednesday 5th 1pm**



The Donaldson family established Pegasus Bay in the mid-1980s, planting the home vineyard (now around 35 years old) and beginning the construction of the Winery and Restaurant by 1990, a project spanning 15 years.

Chris Donaldson, with a lifelong passion for gardens inspired by properties she and Ivan visited worldwide, began planting the winery gardens during its construction over 30 years ago. These gardens have continued to evolve under Chris's vision, with the dedicated support of Paula Kelly, aka @thepegasusbaygardener, who has cared for them for more than 20 years. Paula brings a wealth of horticultural expertise to the role, ensuring the gardens thrive year-round.

### Green Man Tile

Botanical Ceramics with Jane McCulla

Create an age old symbol of seasonal renewal and ecological awareness with ceramicist Jane McCulla.

*Includes all materials, glazing and kiln firing!*

**Sunday 2 March 2025 10am - 12.30pm**

*The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens*

**\$65 (\$80 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)**



GREEN MAN TILE  
Workshop

### Pressed Flower Workshops

Craft and Create with Nature

Join renowned flower preservationist and artist Debz Eagle for two inspiring workshops in flower pressing and botanical art.

**Pressed Flowers: Sunday 23 March**

**Pressed Flower Art: Sunday 4 May**

*The Kiosk, \$60 (\$80 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)*

*Use the coupon code **SAVE\$10** to save \$10 when booking both.*



**Pressed Flower Workshops**

### Growing Cut Flowers

Cool Season Seeds

If you're a seasoned gardener or new to gardening, this workshop will help you prepare your garden for a beautiful early Spring bloom.

**Thursday 27 March 2025 7 - 9pm**

*The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens.*

**\$55 (\$70 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)**

### Growing Cut Flowers

Cool Season Seeds

**Planting your Cut Flower Garden in Autumn**



### Botanical Watercolour

Create stunning Botanical Watercolours with Kay Duncan

Whether you are a novice or a seasoned painter, this workshop offers a fantastic opportunity to hone your skills and create a finished artwork to take home. A repeat of Kay's popular 2024 workshop.

**Sunday 6 April 2025 10am - 1pm, The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens.**

**\$125 (\$155 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)**

### Mini Speaker: Pest Free Banks Peninsula

Pest Free Banks Peninsula is a community-led initiative working to eradicate pests and restore native biodiversity on the peninsula.

*The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens*  
**\$5 (\$10 Non-Members) Pay on the door**

Tea, coffee and baking *afternoon*  
Wine & nibbles *evening*

CREATE YOUR OWN ARTWORK TO TAKE HOME

### BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR





## AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Canterbury Horticultural Society is to be held on **Tuesday 25 March 2025, 7pm** at The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

We will also have the option for members to attend by Zoom and will email out the meeting invite on the day.

Nominations are being called for President, Vice President and (4-6) Board Members. Nominations and items of general business and any notice of motion must be received at the CHS Office by **Tuesday 11 March** with confirmation in writing from the nominated member. Nominations must be signed by two Financial members and any notice of motion must be signed by two Financial/Honorary Life Members.

The Agenda, President's Report, Annual Accounts and Auditor's Report will be available from the CHS Office 7 days prior to and at the meeting. Voting documents now available: [www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm)

## CHS Awards 2025

Nominations are now open for the Canterbury Horticultural Society 2025 Awards. These will be awarded at the AGM on Tuesday 25 March 2025. Nominations are sought for:

**Silver Service Award**  
**Kowhai Award**  
**Outstanding Horticulturalist Award**  
**John Taylor Award**  
**Garden Media Award**

Visit our website to make a nomination:  
[www.chsgardens.co.nz/awards](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/awards)

## Monthly Tips & Tasks

*with Michael Coulter*

The weather over the Christmas period was not very summer-like. Below-average temperatures, dull, cloudy days, and double the usual rainfall made gardening quite a challenge. The silver lining for me was the excellent crops of raspberries, strawberries, and blackcurrants.

**Tomatoes** have been slow to ripen, and my stone fruit was small and eaten by blackbirds. On the positive side, the lawns have stayed green, so I treated them for weeds and applied a slow-release fertiliser to keep them going through the rest of summer.

**Plant growth** has been vigorous in the trees and shrubs, so a summer prune will help keep them in shape. There has been less damage from the usual insect pests, but as the

## From the President

Kia Ora everyone, and welcome to another exciting year!

### Art Shows at the Botanical Gardens

Over the Christmas period, visitors to the Botanical Gardens may have stopped by the Kiosk to enjoy an exhibition of works by local artists. The botanical-themed artwork complemented its surroundings beautifully.

We are now calling on **amateur artists and artist societies** who would like to exhibit in the Kiosk on long weekends and public holidays. If you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to contact Jenny in the office.

This is a fantastic opportunity for artists to gain exposure while providing an engaging experience for both our members and the public. It also reduces the need for volunteer staffing and enhances the Kiosk's atmosphere.

Be sure to read through this newsletter for updates on upcoming events and fresh ideas.

Happy gardening!

*Allan Paterson – CHS President*

## Floral Design

**Wednesday 18 February 1pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The group is studying the upright styles of Ikebana under the tutoring of Ray King.

Contact: **Ray King** tel: 021 037 0675

[See the latest arrangements online](#)

weather starts to warm up, keep an eye out for aphids, mites, and caterpillars. The humid conditions have encouraged mildew, rust, and botrytis fungi, so now is the time to use preventive sprays. Always remember to follow withholding periods for sprays on fruit and vegetables, and ensure all produce, whether from your garden or the store, is washed before use.

**Spring bulbs** that have dried off can now be lifted and cleaned, ready for replanting in autumn. Doing this every few years helps keep them healthy and vigorous. Perennials have enjoyed the conditions and are providing one of the best flower displays I've seen in years. Later perennials are growing strongly and will need support when they bloom.

In the **vegetable garden**, it's a busy time harvesting many spring-planted crops, while also preparing for the planting of winter crops. Brassicas will require close attention to

## Garden Life Survey Results

Thanks to everyone that completed our Garden Life Survey, we had over 100 responses so it was a great result.

### Timing

- **36.8%** Voted to change the start time to 10.30am (with morning tea from 10am)
- **26.4%** Voted to keep the start time at 1pm (with afternoon tea from 2.30-3pm)
- **36.8%** Didn't mind either way

### Pricing

- **34.9%** Prefer a fixed-fee entry
- **21.7%** Prefer an optional koha (donation)
- **43.4%** Don't mind either way

We also received lots of great ideas for how we can improve the programme. Thanks again to everyone that took the time to have their say - we really appreciate it and will keep you posted on any changes to Garden Life.

## Chrysanthemum Group

**Saturday 1 February 1.30pm**

Meeting at Charlotte's  
General cultural notes, pest and disease control. Plant nutrition. Stopping lates.

Contact Robyn if you'd like to join this small group of passionate chrysanthemum growers.

**Robyn Purcell** tel: 942 9871 or 021 179 8186

Email: [dandrpurcell@gmail.com](mailto:dandrpurcell@gmail.com)

keep them growing well in the warmer days and to watch for the white butterfly. Once the stone fruit harvest is over, I like to apply a fungicide for long-term control of leaf curl and botrytis.

The **flower garden** is in full bloom, and removing spent flowers will keep the display looking its best and encourage successive flowering.

**As for weeds**—this year has been a battle! I've found that two hours in the morning with a hoe, tackling them while they're small, is the easiest way to stay on top of them.

*Happy Gardening,*  
**Michael Coulter**



## Book of the Month

### The Botanists' Library: The most important botanical books in history

Carolyn Fry

\$65 [Hardback](#)

Discover a vast treasure trove of botanical knowledge in *The Botanist's Library*, a superbly illustrated collection of 300+ seminal books and illustrations from throughout history.

From the earliest manuscripts penned by visionary naturalists to the modern tomes that continue to shape our understanding of the plant kingdom, this book is a testament to the tireless dedication of the world's greatest botanists. Its compelling narrative and visual journey make it a must-have addition to the library of anyone fascinated by the beauty and complexity of the plant kingdom.

This complete guide traces the development of botanical science through era-defining publications, covering: *Historia Plantarum*,

the first history of botany, written between c. 350 BC and c. 287 BC in which Theophrastus described plants by their uses, and attempted a biological classification based on how plants reproduced to the authors of the herbals of the 16th century Brunfels, Fuchs, Bock and Mattioli, who regarded plants as the vehicles of medicinal virtues, the golden age of the 18th-and 19th-century flower hunters who

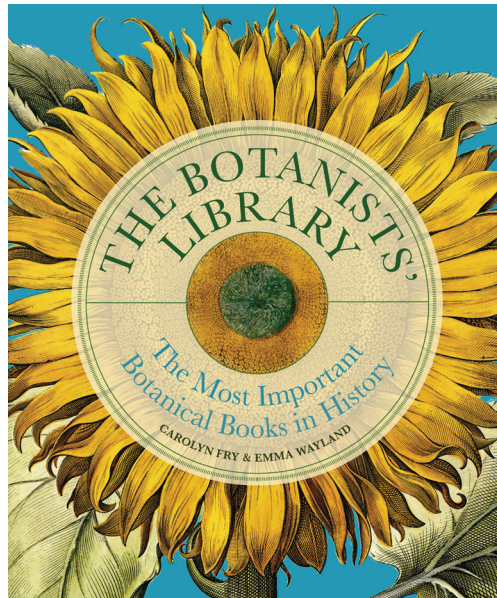
travelled to every corner of the world in search of new and exotic plants, to today's most significant works of botanical reference.

Each chapter delves into the pages of a seminal work, unveiling the insights, controversies, and stories behind the books that have shaped our understanding of the plant world.

Whether you are a seasoned botanist, a budding enthusiast, or simply someone with an insatiable curiosity about the natural world, *The Botanist's Library* offers a comprehensive reference that will enrich your understanding of botany and its evolution.

Thanks to Scorpio Books for this review  
**CHS Members enjoy a 10% discount at Scorpio Books & Telling Tales**

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



## Watercolour Painting

**Wednesday 12 & 26 February** 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

## Canterbury Herb Society

**Thursday 27 February** 7pm

### Annual General Meeting

Avic Hill Reserve  
395 Memorial Ave



## Fruit & Vegetable Group

**Wednesday 26 February** 6.30pm

Onsite (details provided upon RSVP)

The Group are visiting **Amy Wilson**, CHS member and passionate chilli pepper grower! For more information or to join the group, please contact Elizabeth. Admission is free to CHS members \$5 Non-Members

Contact President **Elizabeth Woolley** for programme details. [eliberta@xtra.co.nz](mailto:eliberta@xtra.co.nz)

## Bot Tots February

**Mondays** 10 - 11.30am (term time only)

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. (\$2 koha per tamariki).

**3 February** Make a Bird's Nest

**10 February** Nature's Texture - stamps

**17 February** Herbs - clay pendants

**24 February** Handprint Trees - paint & leaves

[Bot Tots Facebook page](#)

## Envirohub

Stay connected with **Envirohub** with the following links:

[Eco Events Calendar](#), [Map and Directory](#) and [Facebook page](#) are valuable resources to keep you connected with environmental happiness in Ōtautahi.

Christchurch Envirohub hosts **Green Drinks** networking events every month. Join them on the third Thursday of each month for more engaging environmental talks and great company!

## Christchurch Envirokids

**Envirokids** meet at the Kiosk every Saturday from 10am - 1pm for FREE activities.

Check out programme: [@CHCHEnvirokids](#)

## Friends of the Gardens

### Botanic Gardens Guided Walks

The Friend's FREE daily guided walks have fabulous line-up of new and favourite walks through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Walks take approximately one hour, starting at the Kiosk at 1.30pm. [See the full schedule online](#)

### Summer Talk Series

**Sunday 16 February** 4pm

Laura Jones will speak about the history & importance of the Magnetic Observatory.  
**\$5** (Non-Members \$10)

### Mona Vale Guided Walks

**Saturday 8 and 22 February** 1.30pm  
(90 mins), free.

### Riverlution Farmers Market

**Saturday 15 February** 9am - 12pm

Celebrate local with fresh produce, artisan goods, coffee, live music, and a vibrant community vibe at Richmond Community Garden.

### Riverlution Yoga Fundraiser

**Sunday 16 February** 8:15am - 9am

Join a 45-min yoga class with Pele to support Riverlution Eco Park, followed by coffee and garden strolls. \$10 donation.

### Mega Mitre 10 Ranfurly Rose in the Waimakariri

**Saturday 22 February** 1-3pm

Rangiora Showgrounds

An inter-society rose competition featuring rose classes and floral art, with South Island rose societies. Admire new rose varieties and stunning floral art in Waimakariri!



# Garden Life 2025

## March

**Tuesday 4th 6pm & Wednesday 5th 1pm**

**Main Speaker: Colin Meurk**  
**Xeric Gardens**

Xeric gardening focuses on growing drought-tolerant plants to conserve water and thrive in arid conditions. Colin will talk about creating appealing native gardens that are adapted to local and ever-changing conditions - without incurring excess water charges.

Dr. Colin Meurk, ONZM, is a distinguished New Zealand ecologist renowned for his contributions to ecological restoration and urban ecology. He holds adjunct positions at both Canterbury and Lincoln Universities and serves as a Research Associate at Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research. Dr. Meurk's work encompasses applied biogeography, landscape dynamics, and conservation biology. He has been instrumental in

projects such as the ecological restoration of Christchurch's Travis Wetland and the development of the Christchurch 360 Trail. In recognition of his services to ecological restoration, he was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2021.

*Colin is the Honorary Botanist for the Canterbury Horticultural Society.*



**Mini Speaker: Marion Smith**

Marion runs Petal & Co, a sustainable flower farm near Rangiora, specialising in edible flowers for Christchurch's hospitality, bakers, and home cooks, while promoting eco-friendly practices.

## April

**Tuesday 1st 6pm & Wednesday 2nd 1pm**

**Main Speaker: Astrid Harris**

Founder of Replenish Services Canterbury, Astrid is a certified Soil Food Web Technician with qualifications in Organic Primary Production from BHU Lincoln. She is passionate about fostering healthy soil ecosystems.

**The Kiosk**, Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
Armagh Street car park footbridge  
\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)  
Tea, coffee and baking *afternoon*  
Wine & nibbles *evening*  
**See our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) for updates.**

## Green Thumbs February

Our radio programme is on air every two weeks! Fortnightly on **Mondays at 9am**, we chat to fellow green thumbs in Canterbury to help you discover more about our wonderful gardening community, followed by gardening book reviews to see if we can entice you to add more to your bookshelves (or visit your local library!).

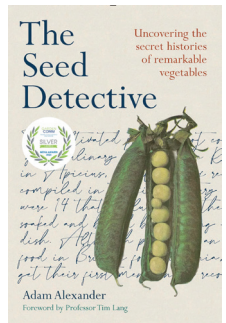
On **Monday 3rd February** we'll be chatting with our very own CHS Manager, Jenny Cookson. We'll talk a bit about what the CHS is, the history of the Society, and about where we're heading in the future. We'll also hear a bit more about Jenny's own garden (and the labrador who treats said garden like his very



own personal smorgasbord!).

And then on **Monday 17th February**, we'll be reviewing our next couple of books.

Inspired by the move into a smaller home, Ray will be taking a look at container gardening. And I'll be reviewing *The Seed Detective* by Adam Alexander.



Listen to Amy and Ray, CHS Green Thumbs, on [Plains FM 96.9](#)  
*Link available from [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz)*

## Plant of the Month - Laurus nobilis The Bay Tree

Every garden deserves a Bay Tree – the rewards are many.

Bay was the ceremonial laurel the ancient Greeks and Romans who bestowed wreaths of bay as crowns for accomplished athletes, warrior heroes or poets.

Sweet bay, or bay laurel is the name given to this perennial evergreen tree which grows, very slowly.

Bay leaves are shiny, smooth and dark with a strong aromatic scent. The flowers are a creamy-yellow and fruits that follow are purple.



An ideal container plant, clip to maintain their shape or if planted in the garden choose a sunny position. Bay Trees can be planted as a specimen tree or they make a fabulous hedge.

Culinary use – Bay is one of the three herbs

used in bouquet garni, the 'broth posy' used to flavour cooking. Use to flavour meat and vegetables, soup and stews, add a bay leaf when poaching fish.

Medicinal use – drink for indigestion and headaches.

Bay leaves can be harvested at any time of year – use immediately or dry before storing.

In our shrub area we have topiaries and chunky ball shaped Bays.



**Thanks to Portstone Garden Centre for this update. CHS Members enjoy a 15% discount at Portstone**

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