

CANTERBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.

2024
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**Connecting people to the art,
science and practice of gardening
and horticulture**



*Canterbury
Horticultural Society*

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

2024 SUMMARY

Bot Tots

Sessions (36)

Chrysanthemum Group

Meetings (8)

CHS AGM (1)

CHS Awards Evening (1)

Edible & Sustainable Garden Awards (1)

In partnership with two
Community Boards

Floral Design Group

Meetings (22)

Fruit & Vegetable Group

Meetings (10)

Garden Club Representatives

Meetings attended by
CHS Board Member (11)

Garden Life

Monthly Meeting (20)
*Garden Life took a break
from evening sessions in
June & July*

Green Thumbs Radio Programme (20)

Moved to fortnightly
airing from May

Working Bees (10)

Avebury House

Spring Fair at Avebury (1)

Tea in My Garden

Garden Visits to local gardens (1)

This began in December
as an ongoing project

Plant/Flower Shows & Displays (6)

Social Media: Facebook:

Page, Group, Adverts

Twitter, Instagram,
Website, Mailchimp

EDMs, Flickr Photos,
Podcasts

Volunteers Morning Tea & Guided Walk (1)

Watercolour Group

Meetings (22)

Shows & Events

Botanical Expo

Chrysanthemum Show
(2)

Workshops & Courses

(34)



WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

- Balcony Dwellers (3)
- Botanical Ceramics Workshops
Botanical Plate Workshops (2)
Botanical Vase Workshops(2)
- Botanical Expo (1)
- Botanical Watercolour Workshop (1)
- Bulb Masterclass Workshop (1)
In association with Terra Viva
- Canterbury Daffodil Championship
Show (1)
- Chrysanthemum Competition (1)
- Christmas Kokedama Workshop (1)
- Edible Flowers Workshop (1)
- Fresh Floral Wreath Workshop (1)
- Grow your own Cut Flowers (1)
- Heritage Display (1)
During the Heritage Festival
- Margaret Watling Memorial
Demonstration (1)
- No-dig Vegetable Gardening Talk
with Yotam Kay (1)
- School Holiday Programme
*Hands-on workshops for children
aged 4-14 (10)*
- Sow you want to be a Gardener?
In partnership with Envirokids (1)
- Spooky Halloween Workshops
Crafty workshops for children (2)
- Summer Fruit Tree Pruning (1)
- Veggie Seed Raising Workshop (1)



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

ALLAN PATERSON

PRESIDENT 2024

Welcome, Kia Ora,

It has been my privilege to serve the CHS and its members as President these past three years. There have been some significant milestones along the way and there is a lot to celebrate tonight.

Some highlights for me are:

Reviewing and updating the **Strategic Plan** was an important and significant body of work. A living document, the Strategic Plan will help to guide the Society into the future, providing a road map for achieving short- and long-term goals. Thanks to the Board and members who participated in this process; a special mention to Board Member Gavin Treadgold whose skill and expertise in governance documents was invaluable.

Securing **The Kiosk Lease** for a further 8 years and 8 months providing security for the Society and an opportunity to continue our collaboration with the Botanic Gardens, and our Kiosk partners The Friends of the Botanic Gardens and Envirohub.



Bot Tots in action at The Kiosk

The growth of our flagship and legacy programmes

Orchards in Schools is now in the capable hands of Melissa Thompson, a qualified teacher with significant experience in the arborist industry. Melissa has developed short- and long-term plans for OIS, an extensive curriculum that sits alongside New Zealand Standards, and excellent relationships with students and school communities. Under Melissa's care Orchards in Schools will continue to grow and thrive.



Rawhiti students get a grip on fruit tree pruning



Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards

Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards

Led again by the passion and expertise of Dave Adams, there were two participating Wards in 2024 and some astonishing gardens for the assessors to visit.

CHS Avebury Climate Resilient Garden

Led by Environmental Scientist and Garden Designer Elizabeth Wilks, this project has attracted increasing interest from members and non-members alike. 2024 saw an increase in volunteers to 31 for this important project. This has fast tracked our progress in clearing the site ready for hard landscaping. Funding continues to be sought for this project which aims to be an educational garden teaching how to future proof gardens to our changing climate.



CHS Avebury Climate Resilient garden

Bot Tots

These horticulturally inspired craft drop-in sessions for under 5's are becoming increasingly popular. Many thanks to Kate Gislason who ran the programme in 2024, increasing the Society's exposure to a new demographic and providing hands on nature-based education and connection for local families.



Bot Tots Monday sessions at the Kiosk

Garden Life

Garden Life continues to be our flagship members' event attracting an excellent selection of speakers presenting on a wide array of topics. It has been heartening to see these monthly meetings continue to be so well supported by our members.

Green Thumbs

This popular show increased to bi-monthly episodes in May with the addition of gardening and horticultural book reviews. In 2024 the smooth transition to new staff, with Jenny Cookson as the new manager and



Kono Basket making workshop with Toni Rowe in the Kiosk

Isabelle Weston as the event coordinator. Both are welcome additions and join Emma Velde-Schaffer to make what has become a cohesive team, dedicated to promoting and enhancing CHS.

Special mention to Emma who has been with us for 14 years and continues to be a valued and talented member of the staff.



Fresh Floral Wreaths, Christmas Workshop at the Kiosk

Events and Workshops

Isabelle Weston has done a fantastic job scheduling interesting and innovative events for our members and the public, with **Tea in my Garden** being a sold-out highlight. The 2025 calendar is already close to being full, with Isabelle now working on workshops for 2026.

Funding and Grants

Board Member Hannah Bolton now oversees Funding and Grant applications and works alongside manager Jenny to identify and complete applications for important projects.

This has resulted in a successful \$20,000 application to the Christchurch City Council Sustainability Fund for Orchards in Schools. This work speaks to a strong commitment to financial sustainability and growth.



Jenny Cookson

Acknowledgments

CHS Specialty Groups

- **Chrysanthemum Group** – *Michael Coulter*
- **Fruit & Vegetable Group** – *Elizabeth Woolley*
- **Watercolour Group** - *Started by Ray King*
- **Floral Design Group** – *Ray King*
- **31 Garden Clubs** chaired by *Gail Scrivener*

The quality of our **SPONSORS** speaks volumes for how well regarded the Society is within industry

- Allwood Trees & Shrubs
- Canterbury Landscape Supplies
- GardenMakers Landscape Supplies

- Intelligro
- Magic Moss
- Woodend Nursery
- ReadyLawn
- The Tree People
- Tree Crops Canterbury
- Treetech
- Trees For Canterbury
- Scorpio Books
- Portstone Garden Centre

CHS Affiliates

- Avon Bonsai Society
- Canterbury Community Garden Association
- Canterbury Herb Society
- Christchurch Peony Club
- Food Resilience Network
- Lincoln University
- National Trade Academy
- NZ Alpine Society
- NZ Tree Crops Canterbury
- Oderings Nursery
- Terra Viva
- The Green Lab
- The Research Group
- Woodend Nursery

Staff

- Emma Velde-Schaffer
- Isabelle Weston
- Jenny Cookson



Isabelle Weston

Thank you to my fellow Board members for the energy and expertise you have brought to the last 3 years. It has been a real privilege to serve alongside you.

Members

Last, but not least, a heartfelt thank you to our members. You are the heart and soul of our organization, and your support is what drives us forward. We truly appreciate all that you contribute to CHS and love seeing you attend and enjoy our workshops and events.

I am incredibly proud of the entire CHS team and everything we've achieved over the past three years. The Society is now in an excellent position to build on the work we've done and the changes we've made.

I look forward to continuing my involvement with CHS for many more years, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations and full support to the incoming Board, President, and Vice President. It has truly been an honour.

Regards



Allan (Badger) Paterson,
CHS President 2022 - 2024



Luscious Fresh Floral Wreaths



Botanical Plates with Jane McCulla

THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS

Volunteers

A huge thank you to all the CHS volunteers who have been the backbone of our organization for 160 years. Many of our events and programs wouldn't be possible without your unwavering support. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and dedication you bring to CHS, and we truly appreciate all that you do.



Our team at the **Botanical Expo** made a fabulous splash of colour! Thanks to Anne Gane and Debz and Barbara Eagle for all their help over the weekend.

We would also like to acknowledge Amy Wilson who managed the CHS Daffodil Show under David Adam's direction and Gail Scrivener for her work on the Botanical Expo dinner.



Under the energetic and committed Elizabeth Wilks our Avebury volunteers (too many to mention individually!) continue to work hard preparing this site for the CHS Avebury Climate Resilient Garden. Many thanks to Elizabeth and the crew.



Garden Life couldn't run without our wonderful team. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Coulter for his ongoing dedication to the programme, and Suzanne Coulter for her fabulous support on refreshments. Anne Gane is a legend on the raffles, and we are most grateful to her unwavering enthusiasm for this special component of Garden Life.



Last but not least, thank-you to our wonderful bakers! Garden Life especially has benefited from this home-made touch. Thanks to Dawn Harris, Elizabeth Hanley, Elizabeth McCormick and Barbara Eagle.

ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS LEGACY PROJECT

The CHS Orchards in Schools Programme provides traditional life long skills and food resilience. The programme is now in its 10th year, with 47 schools within the greater Christchurch area involved.

Orchards in Schools connects tamariki to food production through hands-on, outdoor learning. Students explore nature's processes, like pollination, to understand the role of all living things. The programme supports schools by identifying orchard locations, providing trees, and offering teacher and caretaker guidance. A trained teacher visits twice a year to help maintain the orchard. Sessions focus on observing and interacting with trees—dissecting blossoms, thinning fruit, using tools, and pruning. Tailored for all ages, from new entrants to high school horticulture students.

Melissa Thompson

Horticulture & Education Specialist

Melissa joined as Co-ordinator of the programme in July 2024. With a background in arboriculture and horticultural business management, Melissa previously worked as a Commercial Manager and Training Coordinator in the tree care industry, helping develop career pathways for apprentices.

Melissa holds a Diploma in Arboriculture and a Bachelor of Teaching & Learning, blending practical expertise with education. She is committed to promoting sustainable land management and equipping future generations with horticultural skills. Her work reflects a strong belief in the value of green spaces and their role in fostering resilient communities.



*Margaret Watling Demonstration with
Kate Williams, The After Hours Stylist*



CHALLENGES FOR THE **FUTURE**

- **Gardening in a Changing Climate**

We remain committed to staying up to date with the latest science, ensuring we provide our members with accurate information to help them garden effectively in a changing climate.

- **Community Links**

We are committed to continuing to strengthen our connections within the horticultural and environmental sustainability communities in Waitaha, Canterbury.

- **Food Security**

We are dedicated to understanding food systems and addressing the growing issue of food insecurity in Waitaha, Canterbury. Through programmes like Orchards in Schools and the Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards, we aim to be part of the solution.

- **Membership**

We remain focused on attracting new members, even in an environment where many people face competing demands on their time and financial resources.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

31 DECEMBER

2024

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Total income for the year was \$79,013, a decline from \$148,692 in 2023. This decrease is primarily attributed to the absence of realised gains on investments, which contributed \$83,558 to the previous year's revenue. Despite this, there were notable increases in grants received (\$23,000, up from \$8,400) and society activities income (\$9,098, up from \$3,888).

Membership subscriptions remained stable at \$22,483 (2023: \$21,625), while education income saw a decline to \$18,439 from \$38,072.

Total expenditure for the year amounted to \$211,107 compared to \$239,336 in 2023.

Key expense areas included:

- Salaries & PAYE:
\$136,255 (2023: \$122,999)
- Contractors:
\$32,482 (2023: \$41,076)
- Advertising & Promotion:
\$3,570 (2023: \$4,393)

Reductions in expenses were seen in contractor costs and donations made, helping to manage the overall spending.

2024 YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

2023 FIGURES IN BRACKETS

- **Total Revenue**
\$229,599 (\$160,012)
- **Including Subscriptions**
\$22,483 (\$20,457)
- **Investment Returns taken up**
\$77,510 (\$89,444)
- **Total Expenditure**
\$211,107 (\$284,958)
- **Including Salaries and Contractors**
\$168,737 (\$159,335)
- **Operating Loss**
\$154,557 (\$124,399)
- **Total Equity**
\$2,017,903 (\$1,747,652)





Botanical Ceramics at the Kiosk

The society reported an operating loss of \$154,557, compared to a \$124,399 loss in 2023. The continued deficit highlights the need for strategic funding efforts and cost management to sustain operations moving forward. A budget for the 2025 FY has been prepared.

Our current investments with ANZ Banking Growth Portfolio which has a balance of \$1,973,393.11 (2023: \$1,506,245.88) with a 12 month return of 9.86% while the remaining balance has been allocated as a Term Investment account (\$216,000 at December 31, 2024).

During the year we drew 150,586 from the investments (up from 2022: \$124,000).

The breakdown of our investments, including unrealised returns, as at 31 December 2024 was:

ASSET CLASS	MARKET VALUE \$	% OF COMBINED PORTFOLIO
International Equities	908,179	46.02%
Australasian Equities	385,865	19.55%
International Property	109,542	5.55%
Australasian Property	100,082	5.07%
International Infrastructure	69,299	3.51%
International Fixed Interest	248,233	12.58%
NZ Fixed Interest	119,481	6.05%
Cash	32,708	1.66%

The preparation of the Annual Accounts was assisted by Ainger Tomlin and independently audited by Ashton Wheelens with no significant issues being raised.

CANTERBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2024

Prepared by Ainger Tomlin Chartered Accountants

	NOTES	31 DEC 2024	31 DEC 2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	8,726	27,658
Debtors and prepayments		674	902
GST		-	687
Total Current Assets		9,400	29,247
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	9,400	27,934
Term deposits		65,414	216,000
ANZ Private Bank - Growth		1,973,393	1,506,246
ANZ Private Bank - Income		-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		2,038,807	1,750,179
Total Assets		2,048,207	1,779,426
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
GST		-	-
Creditors and accrued expenses		5,877	8,178
Employee costs payable		12,344	11,714
Income in Advance		12,083	11,887
Total Current Liabilities		30,304	31,779
Total Liabilities		30,304	31,779
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		2,017,903	1,747,647
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	4	1,972,271	1,702,831
Reserves	4	7,629	7,629
Special Funds		37,193	37,193
Total Accumulated Funds		2,017,903	1,747,652

THE CHS BOARD

CURRENT

ALLAN PATERSON

President

KELLY PERAZZOLO

Treasurer | Vice President

GAIL SCRIVENER

GAVIN TREADGOLD

HANNAH BOLTON

ROSS BEAUMONT

SANDRA KEENAN

Garden Club

Representative



Edible Flowers Workshop at The Kiosk



Canterbury Horticultural Society

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HortTalk [facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk)