



# Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

*Veronica laavidiana* Sun Hebe Endemic to Banks Peninsula Christchurch

NEWSLETTER No. 136 WINTER 2024

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new editor for the Friends' Newsletter. I have been a member of the FoCBG for about 8 years and during that time I have been active in the Tuesday propagation team and the Guides. I have attended two Australasian Conferences for Volunteer Guides in Botanic Gardens, in Canberra & Perth. I have also been involved in organising garden visits for the Friends. However, editing the newsletter is a new challenge and I look forward to all your contributions.

As well the regular pieces from the President and the Director, we welcome contributions from Friends, whether it is a book review, a garden visit, or even details of an interesting plant you have encountered.

In this quarter's issue we have exciting news about the Mona Vale Bath House project from Jeanette & an update about the parking issues from Jane. Our garden reports might inspire you and Phillip's book review will cause us to reflect on how many wildflowers from Europe have a place in our gardens.



Vicki Steven



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## President's Report

### President's Report Winter 2024

Greetings to everyone on a rather wintry day! It has been good to experience some cold weather, but I'm also very happy to have those cold, but sunny days, rather than the low cloud drizzly days. As gardeners, these days limit what you can do outside, even though it's lovely to browse through seed catalogues, planning for the coming season of vegetable and flower growing.

Reflecting back on the last 3 months, we've had a busy and productive time, and now there are a few weeks to catch our breaths before heading into the busier spring season.

As there is not a lot of growth at this time of year, the Propagating Team have had about 6 weeks break to do some tidying up. The Plant Stall has been closed over this period and has just re opened on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The Guides are in their recess, with guided walks starting again in October, but we are still busy with reading up about areas we need to increase knowledge in to start the new season. Susan Lawrence, our most capable coordinator, presented some statistics from last year's guiding season. 1387 visitors went on a guided walk, up 4% on last year's total. 21% of the visitors were locals, indicating the interest in visitors from outside Christchurch. Group tour numbers were down, but still 358 groups over the season. If you haven't been on one of these walks yet, do come and join us any time. Walks are run every day in summer, leaving from the Kiosk at 1.30pm.

The Guides have been approached to support Heritage Week running from 12<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October as the theme is sport, recreation and leisure. We will be having walks with a different historical theme on several days during this period. Watch out on our website for more information.

You'll have seen quite a bit in the Press on paying for parking in the Gardens. We still have access to the Petanque Court (on the right of the drive in, after the public toilets) on the days we hold our monthly meetings, so keep an eye out for this if it is a busy day in the Gardens when the meeting is on. This area will not be available long term as the Council/Gardens sadly has other plans for it.

We have had some donation boards designed and now installed in Mona Vale, using QR codes on the boards. Thank you to Jeanette for moving this project forward with support from Nicky Brown, deputy director of the Gardens and Mona Vale.

The Friends have agreed to sponsoring another trainee and so, Allanah Kwant has just started her apprenticeship. We welcome Allanah to the Gardens and to be able to support her through her training years. She has been working with Luke in the native section to start with but will be moving around the Gardens.

We've been asked to be involved in a project with the Canterbury Horticultural Society around the development of a new garden at Avebury House in Shirley. Elizabeth Winks, who is a landscape designer, member of the Friends as well as the CHS has taken on the garden designing and has a small group of volunteers from the CHS to help her. In addition, our Propagating Teams are providing some of the plants for the garden. Currently, it's a bare patch, so it'll be exciting to see this develop, particularly as Elizabeth is developing a drought resistance planting plan. This is so relevant for all of us.

You'll also notice a new face in the Kiosk if you're in there from Monday to Thursday, as the CHS office manager has changed. The new manager is Jenny Cookson and she is quickly picking up the reins of a busy job! Isabelle



Figure 1 Hellebores

Weston has been employed as the workshop coordinator for the CHS, so keep an eye out for any of their courses coming up. Don't forget that as Friends we can attend these courses at the reduced rate.

You may recall that we put out a request for help with the editorship of our newsletter. This has now been taken up by Vicki Steven, one of our committee members. Thank you for taking up the reins, Vicki. If anyone reading this has any articles they are longing to write, or maybe a garden you have visited and want to share the experience, or a book review, please do contact us via the Friends email address [friendsofthegardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthegardens@gmail.com).

We've had some great talks over the last few months with good turnout of members, so thank you for supporting these. It's a lovely opportunity to catch up with fellow members as well as enjoying an informed talk. Thank you to Rachel Woods for organising these talks! Our next one coming up on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August is Michael Reynolds talking about the Roimata Food Commons in Woolston. This will be followed by our AGM at 11.30am.

Finally, this will be my last report as President, as I'm handing over the reins at the AGM to Margaret Metherell, after 3 years in the position. I'm proud to be part of a group who do so much to support the Gardens and all the staff here in a wonderful amenity in our city. We have a wonderfully supportive committee who all share the tasks as required. If you feel you'd like to join the committee this year, do attend the AGM and let us know. You can get more information on what's involved by emailing me [janechbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:janechbythesea@gmail.com).

Jane Cowan-Harris

President



## MONA VALE UPDATE

In spite of the dreary winter weather many things are happening at Mona Vale.

The best news is that the Bathhouse renovation repairs have been awarded to Armitage Williams and repairs are expected to be completed by February 2025. During this time the bathhouse will be wrapped in plastic to facilitate repairs by making the site weatherproof.

A City Council Newsline article about the repairs was published on Monday 15 July.

The article mentioned the Friends instigation to bring forward the repairs from 2029 and the part we played in raising funds and awareness for this project. Thank you to all of you who supported the fundraising.

The Friends have also funded two QR code signs for visitors to donate to Mona Vale. The donations will be administered by 'Givealittle'. This is a more cost-effective way of asking visitors to show their appreciation of these beautiful gardens.



Your committee are also in the process of printing photo cards depicting both Mona Vale and the botanic Gardens. These will be on sale at the Mona Vale Homestead, the Kiosk & hopefully the Visitors' Centre. This is the result of visitors asking for small mementos of the Garden to take away. We are beginning with just two cards but are willing to increase the number if this proves popular.

The winter months will see structural work being carried out at in the Heritage Rose Garden at Mona Vale and along the main entranceway. The work will include the removal of the raised garden by the Heritage Rose Garden which was regarded as dated. The lawn will be extended and a sizable new bed of heritage bush roses such as rugosas planted. The path alongside the fernery will be paved to match existing paving.



The light poles in the car park have been replaced following accidental damage by a driver and retrofitting the lights will cost \$15 k altogether.

Renewal work on the driveway asphalt will start shortly. The cobbled path by the second bridge will be replaced with a path leading to the landing steps. All the buxus in that area are to be removed (because of blight detected) and replanted (Southern Woods have a product to apply to the soil to prevent blight). The damaged bollards are to be replaced and irrigation is being installed in the iris garden and the Millstream lawn.

Jeanette Christensen

□



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August: 10:30am at The Kiosk. Michael Reynolds: a short film and talk about Roimata Food Commons, a community food garden in Radley Park, Followed by the AGM  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September: 4:00pm at the Kiosk. ; Dr Sara Kross, senior lecturer in Terrestrial Ecology: Understanding the interaction between wildlife and people.  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October: 10:30 am: visit to Willow Springs garden and morning tea  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November: 10:30 am at the Kiosk, The Magnetic Observatory, Laura Jones

## Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Winter Talk Series 2024

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am in the Kiosk**

### **ROIMATA FOOD COMMONS MICHAEL REYNOLDS**

Michael Reynolds is the founder of the Roimata Food Commons, an urban food forest in Radley Park, Christchurch.

Join us for a talk by Michael and a screening of Happen Films' short film "The City Food Commons" about the development of this community led venture which grows and provides food for local people in one of Christchurch's 800 public parks.

**Venue:** The Kiosk  
**Date:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
**Time:** 10.30 am (Morning tea provided)  
**Cost:** Members and CHS members \$5.00, non members \$10.00



# Annual General Meeting

of FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS INC.  
to follow at 11.30am

**Friday 16th August in the Kiosk**

If you can bring a contribution of food for morning tea, it would be appreciated



## Volunteering in the CBG:

Introducing our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Rachel Woods

Growing up in Christchurch, I spent many happy hours in the Gardens. As a child I loved getting lost in the water garden with its little fairytale stone bridge, playing under the skirts of the huge Himalayan cedar on the Armstrong lawn, and splashing about in the river in the Christmas holidays in rented canoes from the Antigua Boat Sheds.

I left Christchurch as an adult and spent many years abroad in several different countries. Returning to New Zealand with two small children after the earthquakes, we found our city very much bruised and battered, but the Gardens were still a calm and beautiful haven. We brought our children to the Gardens a lot. The paddling pool and the playground – and the ice creams – became as much a part of their childhood as it was of mine.

Later we regularly walked our dog Possum on a loop from the Armagh St car park around the river to Rolleston Ave, and back into Hagley Park again. We loved that walk along the riverbank: past the Pilgrims' Well, through the pinetum, around the bend to the daffodil woodland and then around the corner to visit the much admired big bottomed statue of The Wrestlers, and the intriguing Taking Flight drinking fountain further along.

Sometimes on these dog walks I would be unable to resist escaping over the Woodland Bridge into the main body of the Gardens, leaving children, husband and dog to carry on without me for a while. Walking alone in the Gardens can be very restorative!

As I started to develop my own garden and became an avid student of horticulture and garden design, I found the Gardens a great source of inspiration. A friend mentioned that she volunteered there, and I always thought it would be an interesting and rewarding thing to do, so when I had some free time I joined the Friends and started volunteering one afternoon a week in the Heritage Rose Garden. This garden is gorgeously planted, not just with roses but many other perennials and trees, and Heidi the curator is doing a wonderful job there.

Garden volunteers generally work for two or three hours a week with one of the curators in their section. We weed, deadhead, cut back, weed, clear paths, spread mulch, and weed. You need to be fit enough to work consistently for two or three hours at a stretch, kneeling, standing, bending, and occasionally lifting heavy weights. We have Friends volunteers in both the Botanic Gardens and at Mona Vale, of all ages, from all walks of life and from all over the world. Some volunteers can only stay for a few months while others become mainstays of the Gardens.

I'm hoping that in future we will be also able to invite volunteers to participate in working bees and other one off group activities – watch this space.



## Pennantia corymbosa – kaikōmako

Alan Joliffe

This is a lovely evergreen tree which, when mature, can smother itself with flowers and is followed by distinctive fruiting spurs producing small black fruit (drupes).

A check on Inaturalist shows only 24 trees recorded across the flat part of Christchurch but many plants around the Port Hills and across Banks Peninsula. I suspect the recordings will increase as conservation plantings grow taller. One of the problems is identification of young trees. *Pennantia corymbosa* goes through three phases of growth juvenile, intermediate and adult. It can however flower and fruit at any stage.

It is the adult stage that it is in its most attractive. It has formed a nice straight trunk, grown larger distinctive leaves and flowers and fruits extremely well. Even as an adult it can still hang onto juvenile branching and leaves.

Seedling grown trees will start as a densely tangled shrub with zig-zagging branches bearing small leaves with 3-4 large lobes at the tip up to about 2 metres. Kaikōmako leaves in juvenile form make it easy to identify as they look like duck feet. It then passes through an intermediate stage to the adult stage. The juvenile leaves and branches will stay on the tree as well and may fall off at any time.



The adult stage is the most attractive. Leaves are dark green, quite large and in ideal situations can be up to 10 long and 4 cm wide, but they are usually seen smaller and distinctly shaped with irregularly toothed or lobed.

Flowering in spring can be spectacular with the trees covered in blossom. The small white fragrant flowers may be male or female as both are produced on the same inflorescence. They are followed by the small black fruit which are a favourite food for bellbird. The Māori name *kaikōmako* means food (kai) of the bellbird (*kōmako/korimako*).

Traditionally, Māori used the tree to make fire sticks to make fire by repeatedly rubbing a pointed stick into a groove on a piece of mahoe.

It is found throughout the North, South and Stewart Islands but is uncommon north of Auckland and on Stewart Island. One of the best specimens I have seen locally is in Akaroa on the Stanley Park walk. It stands on its own on in grass and is about 12 metres high and 5 metres across. Many more should be planted.

A detailed description can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennantia\\_corymbosa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennantia_corymbosa).

Also, Metcalf L.J. (1987), *The cultivation of New Zealand trees and Shrubs*, Reed Methuen, Auckland.



## GUIDING SNIPPETS

Amama Thornley

I hope most of you were able to watch Joanna Lumley's "*The Spice Trail Adventure*" on TV1. It is still available to watch on TVNZ+. The episode on Madagascar and the vanilla orchid inspired me to talk about orchids.

### The Vanilla Orchid

This orchid alone has 110 species but *Vanilla planiflora* is the most widely known because of its aroma and flavour. There are not many cakes or ice creams without a touch of vanilla added in some form or other. The key constituent imparting flavour is phenolic aldehyde, vanillin.

Unfortunately there is no specimen in the Gilpin House. There is a specimen in the orchid nursery in the Visitor Centre but it has not flowered in the last 3 years.



Vanilla orchid and beans.



## VISIT TO UENO FARM, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

Vicki Steven, October 2023

Most gardeners will have formed an impression of formal Japanese garden style even if you haven't visited Japan, but it will surprise many to learn that the popular garden style in Hokkaido is more naturalistic, like a European woodland than the formal gardens seen in Honshu. So many popular garden perennials come from Japan that the effect is familiar to NZ gardeners.



Young garden designer Sayuki Ueno grew up on her family's rice farm in Asahikawa before studying in England. In 2001 she opened Ueno Farm to the public as a "Hokkaido Garden" in the woodland style.



The high point of Ueno Farm

The garden features winding paths through zones such as the White Birch Path, the Gnome's Garden and Long Border. Highlight is a small hill offering views over the surrounding countryside from a row of rainbow-coloured chairs. Summer planting includes roses, hostas, cosmos, asters and herbaceous perennials of all colours and textures, but when I was there in autumn, the perennials were largely in seed &



Ornamental Grasses

so were many attractive grasses following the naturalistic principles of allowing the plants to set seed.

We were lucky to meet Sayuki, hard at work in her garden. Her enthusiasm was evident in her infectious smile. The standard of maintenance was very high throughout the large garden. Most of the gardeners were women, deftly pruning and picking flowers for sale in the ubiquitous garden shop.



Sayuki Ueno in her Garden





## Visit to Cairns Botanical Gardens

Margaret Metherell

Tony and I had the pleasure of paying a June visit to the Cairns Botanical Gardens, where we visited the Friends' House and joined a guided walk. It was most interesting chatting with a volunteer in the brick heritage building which the Friends of the Cairns Botanic gardens use as their headquarters. There are more similarities than differences between the activities of our group and the Cairns one, one being that the guides take their annual break in January and February, the hottest months of the year.



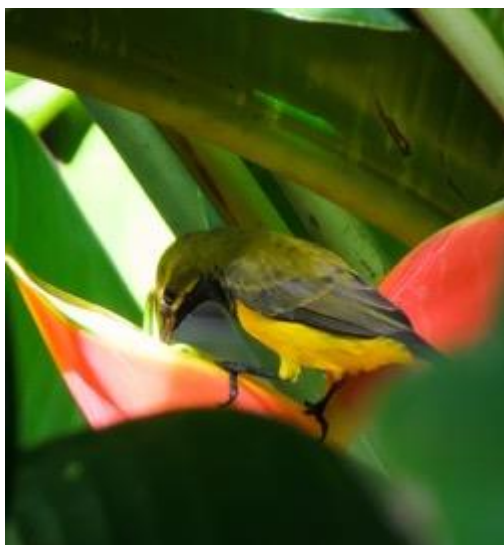
Cacao Pods

We were fascinated to see a very busy hive of stingless native bees, tiny insects busily coming and going through a small entry in the mortar of the brick wall of Friends' House. Tiny amounts of a thin honey are produced.

Plant sales are operated by a subgroup, the "Gardeneers", with a weekly "trolley sale" by the Friends' House (incidentally the day that we were there) and three larger plant sales each year at their propagation facility. Walks are Monday to Friday, covering the Flecker Garden which is part of the more developed areas of the Gardens. This contains a conservatory which was constructed using a large donation from the Friends. A map shows a large area of wetlands, lowland swamp forest and rainforest which we didn't get to visit.

Our guide took us on a one-hour general interest walk, focusing on plants of particular interest. As well as native Queensland plants we saw a lot of South American, South East Asian and African species, which are suitable for the tropical Cairns climate.

heliconia and bamboos. The complex ecosystem of plants supported by a single tree was especially interesting, with climbers, ferns (which included some impressive staghorn ferns), and orchids, among others. Our guide was very surprised to see the attractive flowers on the Cannonball tree *Couroupita guianensis* which normally flowers in



Olive-backed Sunbird

November. Climate change? We also discovered an impressively large fruit on a Dioon, a type of cycad.

Visiting the Aboriginal Plant Use Garden would have been enhanced by a more detailed look at the plants and their uses, making a walk in its own right. In the same area we also saw varieties of bananas, the Sausage tree *Kigelia Africana* and a fruiting Cacao tree *Theobroma cacao*. This latter tree is quite unusual as it exhibits "cauliflory" i.e the fruit grows directly from the trunk of the tree.

At the end of the walk we had a particular treat, a close view of an Olive-backed Sunbird, enjoying the nectar from the flowers of a Heliconia.



Cycad Fruit

## Leptinella nana in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Luke Martin

*Leptinella nana* (pygmy button daisy) is a very small, perennial herb which forms very low open mats. It is one of New Zealand's most threatened species. It has a disjunct distribution and is known from only three sites: Mount Pleasant, Port Hills (Canterbury) Titahi Bay coast (Wellington) and Rai Valley (Marlborough). Populations at the Port Hills and Titahi Bay comprise only a few plants and extend over extremely small areas, whereas at the Rai Valley the species is scattered along 15 km of river margin.

The three most vulnerable points in the biology and ecological requirements of *Leptinella nana* are:

- (1) The requirement of bare sites for colonisation. Sites that are dynamic and require constant disturbance to create these habitat openings. A management challenge at Mount Pleasant exists in that a small to moderate amount of disturbance by the passage of people is beneficial in maintaining and creating bare sites, but that too much foot traffic will also destroy plants by compaction, crushing and smothering;
- (2) The species seems to have a narrow range of soil moisture tolerance. It does not tolerate drying out for long periods in summer, but with too much moisture sites are pre-empted by other small herbs, grasses and bryophytes;
- (3) *L. nana* is small and cannot compete with other taller colonising plants such as grasses.

Likely reasons of local extinctions of *L. nana* include loss of open sites for colonisation, increased competition from other plants, opening up of protective vegetation allowing sites to dry out or become weedy, increased erosion or deposition of debris, excessive trampling by people and animals, loss of seed dispersal vectors like terrestrial birds and other animals and indiscriminate herbicide use.

### In the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

An ex situ colony of *Leptinella nana* exists along the edges of the pathway around the Leonard Cockayne memorial garden in the Christchurch Botanic gardens. Pathways of the New Zealand plant collection have been kept weed free through decades of hand cultivating with a push hoe. This allowed for the selective removal of competing weeds and the encouragement of *L. nana* as a ground cover. The *L. nana* colony in 2017 occupied 40m of path edge where it is associated with mosses, *Sagina procumbens*, *Cotula australis*, *Poa annua*, *Arthropodium candidum* and *Bellis perennis*. This was equivalent to the size of the wild population found on the Port hills.



Through 2018, 86m of pathway edges were cleared of vegetation, weeded and cultivated. The opening up of disturbed habitat and the favourable weather conditions allowed *L. nana* to rapidly colonise areas of pathway throughout the New Zealand plant collection. *L. nana* seedlings sprung up in patches mostly along pathways leading from the original site. Some seedlings were also found in isolated garden beds across lawn areas from the original *L. nana* colony.

Many of the new plants appeared within 25m of existing patches of *L. nana* showing limited dispersal ability by wind/surface water movement. Some seed had crossed lawn areas up to 100m to reach new garden sites suggesting airborne dispersal as a factor. The wider dispersal patterns along path ways further from the original colony suggest that seed of *L. nana* may be able to be dispersed on human footwear distances of up to 100m.

In 2020 a "Threatened plant intern" was appointed at the Botanic gardens through the Christchurch city councils internship programme and it was found that *L. nana* covered an area of 67.2 m<sup>2</sup> in the botanic gardens. This makes the botanic gardens population 8.375 times larger than the wild population found on the Port hills and an important refuge for *L. nana*.

Christchurch Botanic gardens will continue to monitor its ex situ *L. nana* population in the coming years. Ongoing study will allow more accurate recording of the *L. nana* coverage in the botanic gardens. It is hoped this data can provide better understanding into the lifecycle and dispersal of *L. nana*, and provide further insights its habitat requirements and further conservation.





## BOOK REVIEWS

### The Mitchell Beazley Pocket guide to Wild Flowers

By Peter D, Moore (1992)

Reviewed by Phillip Skilton

The sheer beauty of wild flowers needs no emphasis, yet their enjoyment can be greatly enhanced when spiced with more understanding of their construction and relations to one another, Fundamental to this fuller knowledge is correct identification and it is here that the author seeks to meet the naturalist's needs.

One valuable feature of plants is their immobility but tis also makes them vulnerable for they are easily destroyed by careless misuse. This book is designed so that it can easily be carried into the field for on-the-spot identification, making it unnecessary to collect specimens and so deplete the countryside of its natural heritage. The serious field botanist will also need a hand lens (x10 is the ideal magnification) and a notebook. Sometimes it may be necessary to remove a single flower (but only if the plant is widespread) to look at it in detail by cutting a section through it, so take a pocket scalpel with you. Over 1000 European wild flowers are illustrated in this book, and others are mentioned in the text. The selection of plants has been based on their frequency and ease of identification. Some have been omitted because their special features are too complex. Geographically, the book covers N Europe, south to the Massif Central in France and east to the Soviet Union. The many lovely plants exclusive to the Alps and the Mediterranean are not here as they are too numerous to deal with fully.



## FRIENDS' CONTACT NUMBERS

### Committee

President	Jane Cowan-Harris	021 043 5342
Secretary	Graham Chick	021 055 4111
Vice President	Margaret Metherell	
Treasurer	Carol Halstead	
Webpage queries	Jane Cowan-Harris	

Jeanette Christensen, Vicki Steven, Susan Lawrence, Ray McTeigue, Rachel Wood,

### Other Contacts

Guides Co-ordinator	Susan Lawrence	021 120 6258
Group guided walks	Pat Whitman	(03) 384 3475
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**Gardens enquiries:** Information Centre 03 941 7590 **Website:** <https://friendschchbotanicgardens>.



Canterbury Horticultural Society

# NEWS & EVENTS

Have you seen the amazing planters at the Kiosk!

## BALCONY DWELLERS

### Sustainable Gardening for Small Spaces

With a focus on environmentally conscious practices, discover the joy of cultivating your own greens, herbs and fruit, making the most of every centimetre of your outdoor sanctuary.

Next session Saturday 17 August

Monthly, third Saturday of the Month at Ōtakaro Orchard 10am - 12pm  
\$20 (\$25 Non-Members)



THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 6.30-8.30PM

## Grow your own Cut Flowers

Sow an array of flower seeds to brighten your garden

### Grow your own Cut Flowers

Sow an array of flower seeds  
Self-taught flower-garden enthusiast Isabelle Weston will introduce you to growing cut flowers from seed. Designed for beginners, this hands-on workshop will teach you the essentials of raising flower seeds, from planting to growth.

Thursday 12 September  
6.30 - 8.30pm  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
\$40 (\$45 Non-Members)



\$35  
\$40 Non-Members

Learn the art of making a Kono basket with Toni Rowe

## HARAKEKE CRAFTING Kono Basket Workshop

### Kono (four corner) Basket Workshop

Zero-waste nature-based craft

In this workshop you'll learn how to make a useful Kono basket. By the end of the session you'll have a basket to take away plus the knowledge and skills to craft your own practical and sustainable harakeke basket at home.

Sunday 22 September  
10am - 12.30pm  
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens  
\$35 (\$40 Non-Members)



## Garden Life September

Wednesday 4 September 1pm & 5.30pm

**Main Speaker: Matthew Falloon**  
GM, Aspara Pacific Asparagus

Growing up on or around the asparagus farm and industry, Matthew was under a constant unofficial internship from his father, Dr. Peter Falloon. After a hiatus from the business after university, he returned full-time in 2016 as General Manager. Aspara Pacific is constantly looking at innovative ways to improve breeding and production, ensuring to produce the highest quality for their customers.

Matthew will bring his best crowns along to Garden Life. Usually only sold in bulk they'll be grouped into sets of 5, ideal for planting in a 1 Metre row.  
**5 crowns for \$15**  
(+GST)



**Mini Speaker: Taylor McConnell**  
Founder, SporeShift  
**Mushroom Growing**

SporeShift Mushrooms NZ, a boutique farm in North Canterbury, emerged from Covid with a passion for teaching home mushroom growing. Established in 2018 by Taylor, the business focuses on sustainability and an eco-friendly lifestyle, sourcing substrates locally. "We aim to keep our environmental impact positive ... know your farmer's farmer!"

**The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens**  
Armagh Street car park footbridge  
\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)  
Tea, coffee and biscuits afternoon  
Cheese, crackers and fruit punch evening

366 6937 | www.chsgardens.co.nz | office@chsgardens.co.nz | canterburyhorticulturalsociety | groups/CHSHortTalk

**Friends of the Gardens are eligible for all CHS Member discounts!**

When you make an online booking for a course or workshop just remember to select 'CHS Member' as the rate.