



Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Veronica lavaudiana Sun Hebe Endemic to Banks Peninsula Christchurch

NEWSLETTER No 139 AUTUMN 2025

It seems that something gardeners and holidaymakers love to talk about is the weather, and it has certainly given us something to discuss this summer. Insufficient sun for the tomatoes to ripen; too much rain at the wrong time; temperatures that swing erratically from 31 one day to 13 the next! However it is delightful to enjoy this “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” as autumn is upon us. Many of us enjoy popping into the Kiosk from time to time, but what do you know about the friendly face behind the counter? In this edition you can meet Jenny Cookson, the CHS Manager.

A huge highlight of the year has been the long awaited re-opening of the beloved bath house at Mona Vale. Many of you will have attended the Edwardian Garden Party or donated money to this project, passionately propelled by Jeanette Christensen and a small sub-committee of dedicated members. It was a real thrill to see the project reach fulfilment on Thursday 20th March with the ribbon-cutting ceremony performed by our mayor, Phil Mauger and Director, Wolfgang Bopp. Jeanette has written more details further on in this newsletter.



As always your Committee has an interesting programme of talks coming up though the winter months and we look forward to seeing you at these. Do note that from May to August our meetings move to Friday mornings.
Vicki Steven, Editor



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone

I hope that you have been enjoying the Botanic Gardens over the summer. While the installation of metered parking at the Gardens' carparks was controversial, it is a delight to be able to readily find a carpark when visiting, and I think that is an indication of how many non-garden users were occupying these spaces. The paid parking hours are 0800-1700 so there is some free parking time before and after these hours, when the gardens are open to visitors.

The weather has been interesting. I must learn not to make predictions, or perhaps, not listen to the forecasts! After two very hot days in early December things definitely went south. In Christchurch, this summer has overall had slightly below average temperatures but this has been made up of some extreme highs and lows. Overall Christchurch was the least sunny major centre and had well above average moisture levels, at 156% of normal. On December 8, Rangiora recorded a record wind gust of 95km. The windy conditions were accompanied by a number of wildfires. The start to 2025 was the coolest on record since 1997, 2° lower than normal, with a prolonged stream of southerly winds. This period covered almost the entire visit of our UK based son and family... they were not impressed! However, it did result in us discovering Escape Rooms as a fun wet day activity. All this has resulted in challenging conditions for gardeners, with wind damage, poor growth due to cool temperatures and low sunlight and moisture-borne disease to contend with. On the other hand, little watering has been needed.

The dahlia garden has been a clear stand-out for the summer and continues to 'wow' our visitors. As always, the formal rose garden has been glorious, and even after the heritage roses are past their best, the heritage rose garden is worth a visit for the underplanting of perennials. On hotter days the water gardens and native areas are a cool retreat. Easy to get lost in, I am still sometimes surprised as to where I 'pop out'. Garden visitors consistently admire the Curator's House Garden and this is another slightly off the beaten track area worth visiting.

Looking ahead, the autumn colours are beginning to show. Maples are often seen as the stand out but I love to follow the complex changes of colour in the copper beeches and oaks. A March highlight for the Friends of the Gardens has been the formal reopening of the Mona Vale bathhouse. Thanks to the Mona Vale subcommittee and their assistants for all the work that they have put into achieving this. A fountain for the bath house has been commissioned. As well, we will soon see some much-needed bike stands installed at Mona Vale, one set near the main house and one just outside the walls in the main car park.

Our summer series of talks continued to be well attended, with our new Patron, the Mayor of Christchurch, attending the well-received February talk on the Magnetic Observatory,



Bathhouse at Mona Vale



given by one of our Guides, Laura Jones. Our last Summer Series talk is on April 27th, a week later than usual due to Easter, and then we move to our winter time of 10.30am Friday.

The Guiding team held a well-attended introductory meeting for people with an interest in becoming guides. If anyone reading this newsletter missed that opportunity, but has an interest you can contact Susan Lawrence <mailto:susan.l@xtra.co.nz>. Becoming a guide is a great opportunity to learn about the Gardens, and plants in general and a way to meet some very interesting people. While a long-term commitment, it is also a highly flexible one. The Friends have purchased a set of Vox audio equipment to help when guiding larger groups.

Support was provided to the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Gardens in their efforts to save the Begonia House.

So, where are Flora and Otto? And more importantly, what are they? If you look towards the city from the Heritage Rose Garden you will see a



Flora and Otto in the Woodland Garden



delightful set of mosaic armchair and ottoman. These were lovingly created by a team of Christchurch mosaic artists from treasured fragments of broken china donated to the group in the aftermath of the Christchurch earthquakes. It is well worthwhile spending some time looking closely at the patterns of the mosaic, and reading the thoughtful messages embedded within.

Your next challenge... do you know what connects the

Christchurch Botanic Gardens with the South Pole? You will know the answer to this if you have been attending our Summer Series talks. Even if you attended Laura Jones' talk do check out the little green building behind the Kiosk. Definitely worth a visit.

Until next time,

Margaret Metherell

President.

March 2025



MONA VALE BATHHOUSE REOPENING

Jeanette Christensen

Wonderful news, the Mona Vale bathhouse, which has been closed since the earthquakes has been repaired and officially opened.

Two years ago on March 13 the Friends held an Edwardian Garden Party at Mona Vale Homestead to begin a fundraising campaign to restore the earthquake damaged Bathhouse. Thanks to Garden Party proceeds, public donations, and a generous \$50,000 awarded to the Friends by the Fendalton/Waimari/Harewood Community Board, the Committee was able to offer the Christchurch City Council \$100,000 to help fund the Bathhouse restoration.

It was an exciting day for the Friends when the Christchurch City Council confirmed the repairs and appointed Selena Robinson, from Vertical Capital CCC, to be site manager for the restoration. The firm of Armitage Williams was employed to do the work and Selena and her team of architects, engineers and builders worked hard to complete the restoration project in record time.

On Thursday 20 March Christchurch Mayor, Phil Mauer, officially opened the beautifully restored Heritage (category II) building.

Fifty invited guests gathered outside the Bathhouse for the official opening ceremony. Margaret Metherell, President of the Friends, welcomed everyone and invited the Mayor to speak. The Mayor thanked all those who participated in the project on behalf of the Council. He gave a special vote of thanks to the Friends and mentioned the Edwardian Garden Party which began the fundraising campaign.

Selena spoke about the technical aspects of the repairs and thanked her team for their hard work. She made particular reference to their enthusiasm and dedication to complete the contract in record time and said how proud she was of the finished product.

Wolfgang Bopp, Director of the Botanic Gardens, accepted the restored Bathhouse on behalf of the people of Christchurch, and thanked the Mayor for helping to make it happen. The ribbon was duly cut and Margaret invited the guests inside for refreshments.

The Friends Committee would like to thank Janet Cubey for the beautiful cello music which helped make this event very special. We would also like to thank Jonny Schwass and his Black Tie Catering Company for providing, free of charge, the refreshments for the occasion.

Last but by no means least, a special mention to Nicky Brown, Deputy Director of the Botanic Gardens and Mona Vale, and her team of gardeners, led by Darren Tillet, from the Botanic Gardens, who chose and planted the semi-tropical plants for the Bathhouse. The public can now wander through the Bathhouse once more, stay awhile and admire the lovely building and beautiful plant displays.



Black Tie Catering Company



Janet Cubey



tōi, broad-leaved cabbage tree, mountain cabbage tree

This continues a series of articles about NZ native trees that grow on Banks Peninsula and in the Christchurch area.

Sometimes it's nice to have fun with the computer. Here is what several AI (artificial Intelligence) apps came up with.

Co Pilot AI (Microsoft)

“Cordyline indivisa, commonly known as the mountain cabbage tree, is a species of woody plant native to New Zealand. It thrives in cool, moist environments, typically found in the mountainous regions of the North Island. The tree is characterised by its broad, sword-shaped leaves and robust trunk, and can grow up to 8 meters tall. Cordyline indivisa is often cultivated for its striking appearance and resilience, making it a popular choice for gardeners seeking foliage that adds a dramatic touch to landscapes.”

Chatgpt AI (Open AI USA)

Cordyline indivisa, also known as the Mountain Cabbage Tree, is a striking foliage plant native to New Zealand. It has long, sword-shaped blue-green leaves that can grow up to several feet long, giving it a dramatic look in the landscape. This plant prefers full sun to part shade and well-draining soil. It is tolerant of coastal conditions and is drought tolerant once established. They make a bold statement when planted as a focal point in the garden or in containers.

Deepseek AI (China)

Cordyline indivisa, commonly known as the Mountain Cabbage Tree or Blue Dracaena, is a striking evergreen plant native to New Zealand. It is part of the Asparagaceae family and is closely related to other Cordyline species, such as the more widely known Cordyline australis (Cabbage Tree).

Key Features:

1. Appearance:

- It has a single trunk or a few branches, topped with a dense cluster of long, sword-shaped leaves.
- The leaves are typically a deep green or bluish-green color, with a prominent central rib and a slightly arching form.
- The plant can grow up to 8 meters (26 feet) tall in its natural habitat.

2. Flowers and Fruit:

- In summer, it produces large, drooping panicles of small, fragrant, white or pale lilac flowers.
- These are followed by small, bluish berries that attract birds.

3. Habitat:

- *Cordyline indivisa* thrives in cool, moist, mountainous regions, often found in subalpine forests and scrublands.
- It prefers well-drained, fertile soils and can tolerate partial shade.

4. Cultural Significance:

- In Māori culture, the leaves of *Cordyline* species were used for weaving and as a source of fibre.
- The plant is also valued for its ornamental appeal in gardens and landscaping.



[https://citscihub.nz/Phil_Bendle_Collection:Cordyline_indivisa_\(Mountain_Cabbage_Tree\)](https://citscihub.nz/Phil_Bendle_Collection:Cordyline_indivisa_(Mountain_Cabbage_Tree))

5. Care and Cultivation:

- It is best suited to cool, temperate climates and may struggle in hot, dry conditions.
- Requires protection from strong winds, as the large leaves can be easily damaged.
- Regular watering and mulching help maintain soil moisture.

6. Conservation:

- While not currently endangered, *Cordyline indivisa* is less common than other *Cordyline* species and is vulnerable to habitat loss and browsing by introduced animals like deer and possums.
- If you're considering growing *Cordyline indivisa*, ensure you can provide the cool, moist conditions it prefers. It makes a dramatic focal point in a garden, especially in a native or woodland setting.

Gemini AI (Google)

Cordyline indivisa, often called the mountain cabbage tree, is a distinctive and impressive plant native to New Zealand. Here's a summary of key information about it:

Characteristics:

- It's a monocot tree, known for its broad, blue-grey, sword-shaped leaves.
- It can grow quite tall, reaching up to 8 meters (26 feet).
- Its inflorescence (flower cluster) is unique, forming beneath the foliage.
- It is different from the more common *Cordyline australis*, by having much wider leaves.

Distribution:

- It's endemic to New Zealand.
- It's more common in cooler, wetter areas, particularly in mountainous regions.

Ecological Role:

- It's a significant part of New Zealand's montane forest ecosystems.

Conservation:

- While not currently considered threatened, some populations have been affected by introduced animals like goats.
- It is also susceptible to diseases such as "Sudden Decline".

Cultivation:

- It prefers cool, moist conditions and partial shade.
- It can be challenging to grow in warmer, drier climates.

Essentially, *Cordyline indivisa* is a striking plant that adds a unique touch to New Zealand's natural landscapes.

Alan's Version

Cordyline indivisa, Toii, broad-leaved cabbage tree or mountain cabbage tree is one of New Zealand's loveliest foliage trees. With its handsome long, broad leaves with colourful stripes it gives a subtropical look to New Zealand native bush and gardens.

It is now classified as being in the Asparagaceae (Asparagus family) where previously it had been included in the Liliaceae and sometimes described as the largest lily in the world.

It grows on a single stem or trunk up to between 1.5 and 8 m high with olive green leaves that can grow from 60 cm long to 1.8 metres long depending upon location and up to 15 cm wide. The older trees tend to have shorter leaves. Leaves are clustered around the head and older leaves are shed easily.



Photo: Alan Joliffe

Leaf veins are many, prominent and can be different reddish orange colours while the mid rib is thick and coloured reddish orange. Overall, the younger leaves have a bluish green tinge to them.

It is the only cordyline to produce its inflorescence from below the crown rather than the typical terminal inflorescence. The 8 mm wide, sweetly scented green, purple, white flowers are carried on a densely pendulous panicle between 60 cm and 1.6 metres long. The fruit when ripe is a purple/black.

In nature it grows in high rainfall, cool mountain and misty conditions. Growing elsewhere requires a cool moist soil and in some locations shade to keep it cool.

Its natural locations are in cooler montane forests and subalpine shrublands, where it usually grows within gullies and at the heads of valleys from Hunua and Coromandel south in the North Island and in the South Island on the West Coast south to Dusky Sound and on the East Coast in various locations south to parts of Banks Peninsula. Altitude 450 m to 1200 m.

INaturalist has 15 records of it on Banks Peninsula which is the southern limit for it to grow naturally. There is a good case for raising young plants from wild collected seed and establishing more plants in cool moist places on the peninsula and the Port Hills. It will grow in gardens as a choice plant in the city when planted in the right conditions.

Occasionally it is offered by garden centres and specialist native plant nurseries. It is prone to sudden collapse during high temperatures or in times of water stress. It is a very attractive tree that prefers cool moist soils, and semi-shade, and is easy to grow in the cooler parts of New Zealand.

From a cultural use perspective, the fibre is very strong and long lasting and was used by Māori for ropes, heavy cloaks, clothing articles, accessories, raincoats etc. and was very useful for binding adze handles.

It is not as prolific as *Cordyline australis* due to its habitat requirements. In order to preserve and increase genetic diversity more locally sourced seed from various plants around Banks Peninsula should be grown and planted in suitable locations. In years to come locals and visitors will appreciate this effort as they see this wonderful plant growing.

Editor's Note:

It is interesting to compare the different AI generated writing styles with the more personal style of an experienced writer such as Alan.



THE FUN OF MAKING TWO CREVICE GARDENS

Jane Cowan-Harris

Margaret (current President) was visiting my home recently, when she noticed that I had two yellow bags containing bedding sand, sitting at my front door. She commented that she also had the same items near her front door and we realised we had had the same plans from about a year ago, to build our a crevice garden in our own gardens after being inspired by Kenton Seth when he gave his talk back in January 2023! So, as neither of us were making progress on our own, we decided to get together to tackle this project in each garden. As it turned out, this was significantly easier than trying to do it on your own and propelled us both into action.

First step for me, was to dig a large enough hole to allow me to position some of the bigger rocks down a bit and to be not too close to a small specimen tree I had on the site I'd chosen.

Living at the top of a hill on part of Banks Peninsula, ensured that there was plentiful rock and I was pleased to put some of this to such good use!



Fig 1. The start of crevice garden digging



Fig. 2. The completed crevice garden build

I had also had some good advice from Grant Matheson, curator of the Botanic Gardens Crevice Garden, about orientating the rocks in the crevice garden to optimise the sun.

The next step, with Margaret's help, was to manoeuvre the larger rocks into place, then infill with smaller skinny rocks and some smaller stones near the ends of these rocks to stop bedding sand and covering shingle pouring out. Then came the use of those yellow bags of bedding sand – a semi fine sterile medium which reduces the risk of weeds seeding in between the rocks and allow the roots of our plants to easily make their way down to the better soil at the base of the crevice garden. A small sharp tool or old kitchen knife is very handy to poke the bedding sand down between the cracks and into the little holes formed between rocks. It's amazing how much bedding sand is required as it seeps between the rocks!

Finally, as I was too impatient to leave planting for another 6 months, whilst the bedding sand and rocks all settled down, I planted some of the alpine plants that I'd had sitting waiting for me to provide this lovely garden for them to be in!

Margaret's crevice garden was an innovative use of offcuts of bathroom tiles used to create an imaginative garden feature for her new house. She had a

much smaller space to use, encased with a concrete border near her front door.

This will create an ideal place to view her innovative design as you walk down a sloping path to the front door.

Tiles were placed on their sides and with corners pointing up as if a mountain range were pushing its way up!

Finally, the bedding sand was added in between the tiles and pushed down with the end of an old screwdriver, kitchen knife or whatever handy

tool could be found to ensure the gaps were all filled.

Margaret also started planting her crevice garden to be able to enjoy it this summer and before the weather became too hot. The whole process has been a lot of fun and we both look forward to seeing how our planting will go. The challenge was been to find good sources of alpine



Fig 3. Placing the tiles



Fig 4. Early Planting in Margaret's garden

plants which will not swamp and take over the other plants, but this is all a matter of trial and error. If you want some inspiration for smaller projects, do go and have a look at the small crevice gardens that Grant has completed in amongst the rock garden beds, using old pipes as the main base.



Fig 5. Jane's garden in March 2025

Crevice gardens require very little maintenance or watering once established, but with the right planting can provide year round interest. If you'd like to try and create you own crevice garden, we strongly have recommend borrowing the Crevice Garden book written by Kenton Seth, who helped to design and build the crevice garden next to the rock garden. It is available from the Botanic Gardens library which we access to. As well as a comprehensive section on building a crevice garden, there are also useful sections on suitable plants.



COMFREY OINTMENT

Comfrey ointment can be used for relieving pain from sprains, arthritis and inflammation, as well as rubbing into bruises. Comfrey is said to help scar tissue to form, so this ointment may promote the healing of cuts and bruises.

You Will Need:

- Comfrey leaves (150g fresh or 60g dried)
- Petroleum jelly (500g) or beeswax (4 Tblsps beeswax pellets)
- Saucepan (small)
- China bowl, to fit on top of saucepan
- Wooden spoon
- Square of muslin, or jelly bag
- Container, with lid
- Rubber gloves

1. Wash and dry the leaves, and then roughly chop them. Melt the petroleum jelly or wax in a china bowl over a pan of boiling water.
2. Once the wax is melted, add the comfrey leaves and simmer for one hour, stirring continuously. Check the saucepan occasionally to make sure the water does not boil dry.
3. Wearing rubber gloves, as it will be very hot, pour the comfrey mixture into a jelly or muslin bag. Squeeze as much of the mixture as possible through the bag into the bowl.
4. Pour the hot liquid into a clean jar before it starts to set. Place the lid over the jar, but allow the ointment to cool before finally sealing. Label and date the ointment and store in a cool pantry or refrigerator for up to three months



If you'd rather not use the petroleum jelly, a mixture of beeswax, olive oil and coconut oil is a great, natural alternative. You can make this by combining eight tablespoons of olive oil and eight of coconut oil in a pan on a low heat. Then add the comfrey as directed in step 2. Once the mixture has been strained, return to the pan on a low heat and melt in four tablespoons of beeswax pellets. When all melted, you can pour the liquid into a clean jar as directed in step 4.

From Gardener's World online



INTRODUCING JENNY COOKSON

I'm now in my ninth month as the manager of CHS, and I'm still thoroughly enjoying every moment. The transition into this role has been smooth, thanks to the incredible CHS team, the support of the Board, and the welcoming nature of our members. I've also been fortunate to have the support of our partners at The Kiosk, the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, and Envirohub. These collaborative relationships have made this journey even more enjoyable. One of the projects I'm most excited about is the planned collaboration with the Friends on the CHS Avebury Climate Resilient Garden.

My family has an historical connection to the Botanic Gardens. My uncle, Gavin Henderson, served as Deputy of Parks Christchurch before becoming Superintendent of Parks and Reserves for the Dunedin City Council. He was also Chairman of the RNZIH at one point. His son, Jim, worked as a gardener at the Gardens for many years, and he and his twin brother, John, once shared a flat with Alan Jolliffe, the current RNZIH president. Gavin lived in the Curator's House at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens, and I have fond memories of visiting as a child and thinking it was their very own backyard!



I grew up with three siblings in the Christchurch suburbs, enjoying a typical childhood for the time. We had a flower garden at the front (mum's responsibility) and a vegetable garden at the back (dad's domain). I vividly remember the fragrance of the cream freesias under the kitchen window and the lilac tree outside my bedroom. I marvelled at how the Cecile Brunner rose, cut back to just a few twigs in winter, could grow so large and bloom so prolifically in the summer. As kids, we would hide between the rows of peas, picking and eating them straight from the plant. Dad always planted extra, so we could eat as many as we wanted while still having enough for Christmas Day.

Back then, we didn't have the wide variety of vegetables available today. Dad grew potatoes, carrots, peas, beans, onions, cauliflower, cabbages, gooseberries, and black currants. The excess was bottled to see us through the winter months. He also had a 44-gallon drum in the middle of the plot for burning garden waste that wasn't suitable for composting. I have fond memories of sitting around the drum, watching the flames, and dad lighting his pipe with a twig from the embers while we kids were desperate to throw another branch on the fire. Saturday afternoons seemed to be the perfect time for this, right when our neighbour, Mrs. Hooper, had her washing out. A few strongly worded chats over the back fence were exchanged on those days!

My love of plants began with tertiary courses in Botany and Phytopharmacology. My early interest in gardening was born out of my passion for food and cooking, and my desire to grow my own produce. My fruit and vegetable garden has been a work in progress for decades now, expanding and shrinking along with life's many commitments.

I've never met a plant I didn't like, so my ornamental garden is a happy, chaotic mix of plants I've bought on a whim (many from the Friends' stall recently) and simply plopped into gaps without much thought for design or balance. It's the garden I spend the most time in and it brings me a lot of joy. However, CHS is currently running a trial Garden Design course with Elizabeth Wilks at The Kiosk, and I'm learning so much! I already have an area in my garden ready for redevelopment, and it will be wonderful to apply the knowledge I gain to a space that's currently full of diversity but lacking unity. It's truly a joy to be surrounded by plant-minded people. I'm loving my time with CHS members and the Friends, as there's so much knowledge shared between both groups. It's a real privilege to spend my days at The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens—what a wonderful place to work!



FRIENDS' CONTACT NUMBERS

Committee

President:	Margaret Metherell	027 459 3199
Secretary:	Ray McTeigue	027 569 9402
Past President:	Jane Cowan-Harris	021 0 4 3 5342
Treasurer:	Carol Halstead	022 439 4376

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

Guides Co-ordinator: Susan Lawrence 021 120 6258
Group guided walks: Pat Whitman (03) 384 3475
Newsletter editor: Vicki Steven vicki_steven2005@yahoo.com.au
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Post: PO Box 73036 Orchard Road Christchurch 8154 New Zealand
Botanic Gardens enquiries: Information Centre (03) 941 7590
Website: <https://friendschchbotanicgardens>

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday April 27th (note later date due to Easter): This will be the last of our Sunday afternoon talks for the summer. Speaker is yet to be confirmed

Friday 16th May: Andrew Crossland, CCC City Ecologist will speak about local birds

Friday 27th June (note later date due to Matariki): Ava Johnson from Canterbury University will speak about pollinators in urban gardens.

FREE GUIDED WALKS

Don't forget that our free guided walks run every day until 30th April, leaving from the Kiosk at 1:30pm. These walks are themed to cover different sections of the Botanic Gardens such as the Central Rose Garden, Heritage Rose Garden, Native Section, Palms, etc and are a great reminder to locals what a wonderful place the Christchurch Botanic Gardens is. Group bookings are welcome. Contact Pat Whitman for a booking for your group.



Canterbury Horticultural Society

NEWS & EVENTS

GUEST TUTOR, KAY DUNCAN

BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR

Painting Workshop

\$125
\$155 Non-Members

GARDEN DESIGN

Learn to design with confidence and creativity – practical skills for a beautiful, functional garden

BOTANICAL CERAMICS

Workshops

WITH CERAMICIST JANE MCCULLA



Book our courses and workshops online!

Botanical Watercolour Workshop

Create stunning Botanical Watercolours

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 Duncan's popular 2024 workshop.

Sunday 6 April 2025 10am - 1pm
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
\$125 Members & Friends
(\$155 Non-Members)

Garden Design Course

Join our seven-session garden design course to gain practical skills and fresh insights for creating a beautiful, functional outdoor space. Sessions include hands-on activities and the opportunity to work on your own garden design project.

Wednesdays 7-9pm 7 May - 13 June
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Includes a practical session on Sunday 15 June
\$590 Members & Friends
(\$650 Bundled with CHS Membership)

Botanical Ceramics

Create a Botanically Inspired Mug, Bud Vase or Container with Jane McCulla

Botanical Mug (Mother's Day Treat!)
Saturday 10 May 2-4pm

Botanical Bud Vases
Sunday 24 August 2-4pm

Botanical Container with Lid (Father's Day Outing!)
Sunday 7 September 2-4pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
\$65 Members & Friends
(\$80 Non-Members)

GARDEN LIFE

April

Tuesday 1st 6 - 8pm
Wednesday 2nd 1 - 3pm

Main Speaker: Astrid Harris
Champion of Healthy Soil

Astrid Harris is a passionate gardener dedicated to cultivating healthy soil and promoting sustainable gardening practices. Using a microscope to analyse soils and composts, she identifies whether the right balance of microbes is present to enable natural nutrient cycling with minimal external inputs.



Mini Speaker: Louise Young
Curator, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

May

Tuesday 6th 6 - 8pm
Wednesday 7th 1 - 3pm

Main Speaker
Dr. Matthew Cromey
Plant Pathologist

Dr. Matthew Cromey is a Senior Plant Pathologist at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). He develops strategies to manage diseases affecting ornamental and edible plants, combining RHS research findings with other sources to provide effective advice.

Now living in New Zealand, his work includes diagnosing plant problems, conducting field research, and collaborating with various stakeholders to manage garden diseases. Dr. Cromey has contributed to numerous scientific publications on plant pathology.

Mini Speakers: Mary & Rick
Sogetsu School of Ikebana

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Armagh Street car park footbridge
\$5 Friends & Members
Tea, coffee and baking *afternoon*
Wine & nibbles *evening*

See our website and Facebook for updates

☎ 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.