



NEW ZEALAND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY Inc 1960 - 2025

# Newsletter

Jan/Feb/March 2025

## Calendar of Events

**26 January (or if really wet February 2nd)**

Trip to the Cass Research station and environs. More info on p. 3

**May 2025-** Botanical Tour to Turkey

'Above the Treeline' book offer  
More info inside the newsletter and order form on the back page.

### Meeting Information

The Zoom link will open at **7.30pm.**

Some meetings will be recorded so let us know if you are interested in a particular topic or if you missed the meeting.

To join the Zoom Meeting  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87408735664?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87408735664?pwd=xpFBJbvfmlTboglKX7nsaSnxoRj3txR.1)  
[pwd=xpFBJbvfmlTboglKX7nsaSnxoRj3txR.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87408735664?pwd=xpFBJbvfmlTboglKX7nsaSnxoRj3txR.1)

Meeting ID: 874 0873 5664

NZ Alpine Garden Society Inc.  
PO Box 2984  
Christchurch 8140  
Email: [info@nzags.com](mailto:info@nzags.com)



[New Zealand Alpine Garden Society Group](#)



[nzalpinegarden](#)

## Notice of Meetings

Meetings all at Philatelic Centre 67 Mandeville Street Riccarton Christchurch unless otherwise stated.

The door opens at 7.30pm. Plant sales and library from 7.30pm. The meeting starts at 8pm.

Entry \$2 includes a lucky number

### Guest speakers

**8pm 30 January 2025**

(The first Thursday in February is Waitangi Day)

**Carol Halstead** - "In pursuit of the Blue Poppy and other treasures along the road to Tibet"

An amateur's photographic account of a recent trip from Lijiang, Yunnan, to Lhasa Tibet organised by John Mitchell and the Alpine Garden Society UK.

**Supper** -Lynne Reyn Hilary Plunket Chris Garland

**8pm 6 March**

Speaker to be confirmed

**Supper**-Esme Alpe Chris Carlile-Smith

**8pm 3rd April**

Speaker to be confirmed

Carol is a long-standing member of the NZAGS and passionate about plants. She tells me she has been a member of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens since 2019. She is a novice gardener but has a passion for rock garden plants. Carol watched John Mitchell's zoom talk about his proposed trip to Tibet and decided to join the tour. You are sure to enjoy her talk on the plants, people and adventures in the Tibetan area.

Tibet is the home of meconopsis, rhododendrons, azaleas, gentians, pines and a host of other very desirable plants.



The next newsletter will be sent out by email on 20th March. Please have any contributions to Judith by the 10th March. Thanks. Any notices will be approved by the Council prior to publication.

## Chair's Chat

Pauline Murphy

I hope everyone had an enjoyable break over Christmas and the New Year. It was very wet where I was and a good chance to catch up on reading, including the December issue of our bulletin.... thanks to Suzanne and her hard working team.

2025 brings some exciting events for the NZAGS – on 26th January the field trip into Canterbury alpine region – this is such an interesting way of gaining knowledge from our esteemed members (details in this newsletter). Jenny and Hamish are actively lining up monthly speakers - January meeting speaker is one of our members Carol – on her trip to Tibet, details on page 1.

Please remember that this meeting will be 30th January, as the first Thursday in February is a New Zealand public holiday.

We were very fortunate to be offered copies of Sir Alan Mark's 2021 edition of 'Above The Treeline', as a fund raiser for the society. This is also an excellent way of promoting our alpine flora.... the order form is attached, postage options are now being taken.

This year marks our 65th anniversary - I am looking for suggestions on celebration ideas and a couple of volunteers to assist with planning – so far there is Ann Cartman and myself –please do consider this as a way to contribute to the society – you need not be residing in Christchurch to be part of the team.

Congratulations to all award recipients – the end of year function and awards ceremony was such an enjoyable way of celebrating our society's congeniality and successes of our member's hard work. Our Christmas meeting hosted by Sue Petersen and Kate Pearce was a very sociable and happy event. Thanks so much Sue and Kate for hosting this.

I look forward to 2025 – and a busy schedule.....don't forget your requests for plants or queries via the newsletter - [judith@nzags.com](mailto:judith@nzags.com) and articles for the bulletin - [suzanne@nzags.com](mailto:suzanne@nzags.com)  
Regards Pauline

## New Members

### *Welcome to our new members:*

Alan Ayton - Australia  
Gwenda Umbers - Auckland  
Molly Shaw - Christchurch  
Nicholas Bishop - Christchurch  
Philip Tree - Christchurch  
Sue Dunbar Davis - Cromwell

Is there anything you would like to see included in the newsletter?

Do you have any questions you would like answers too?

Are there any plants you would like?

Would someone like to have a space here to write a bit about annual jobs in the garden?

Please get in touch with me.

Judith

If anyone would have this NZ native grass....  
*Dichelachne crinita* long -hair plume grass  
Thanks Pauline

[pauline@nzags.com](mailto:pauline@nzags.com)

## Citations for the annual awards – awarded at the Christmas party 7 December 2024

**Byllee and John Hannan Award for 2024** was presented to Tina Bunce. This is a well-deserved recognition of all Tina's hard work and dedication to the society. Tina is very active in the society, including being on the committee, (the membership secretary role is a massive job). She is also Secretary for the Spring Show committee and active in the Botanical Expo committee. This is a small acknowledgment of all the diligent and untiring hard work that Tina does for the Society.



**The Hilda Hearn Award for 2024** was presented to Adrian Bliss and Andrew Young. Adrian and Andrew led the process of the society renewing its constitution in 2024. We now have a new, fit for purpose, constitution that will see us well into the future. This award recognises all time and hard work they have done in preparing the new constitution for the society.



**Lifetime Membership** awarded to Kathy and John Chamberlain. This is in recognition of their continued support and contributions to the society. It also recognised Kathy's various roles on the council from 2006 to 2024. Kathy was President for a number of years including the 2010-11 earthquake period. While Kathy is active on the committee for the Spring Show and Botanical Expo, John also contributes to these events in numerous ways, including being very handy with a carving knife dealing to the Christmas ham!

They are welcoming and inclusive to all members of the society. Both are important members of the society family and this recognition of their hard work and enthusiasm for the society is well deserved.

## More photos from the Christmas Party.



*Pauline presenting Gabor with his award (and Jenny in the background sorting trophies)*



*Hamish & Mika Brown with Pauline.*



*Ann & Joe Cartman receiving their awards.*



*Pauline with hosts Sue Petersen and Kate Pearce on a beautiful day.*



## November Speaker Report by Kate Pearce

JIRI PAPOUSEK FROM CZECH REPUBLIC by Kate Pearce

We were privileged to have Jiri Papousek come and speak at our November meeting. Jiri has been growing and exhibiting alpine plants for 35 years and is a member of the Prague & Scottish Rock Garden Clubs. The Prague Rock Garden Club started in 1970, has approximately 600 members and hold 10-day exhibitions.

His passion for plants is clearly evident in the photos of his 1000m<sup>2</sup> property in Roztoky, 10km from Prague at an elevation of 230 metres where the temperatures can range from -15° to +39° C. His extensive collection has been cleverly crafted into habitats made from tufa – collected by many trailer loads from a quarry 750km away into a 10 metre wall and tufa tunnel. Crevice gardens, troughs and peat blocks are also numerous to contain his collections of *dionysia*, *primula*, *daphne* and *campanulas*.

Jiri has in his collection *Dionysia janthina*, *D* 'Brimstone', *D tapetodes*, *D khatamii* and *D* 'Monika' that can all cope with hot temperatures, whereas *Daphne arbuscula* 'Zizkov Star', *D verenovskiyi*, *D malyana*, *D cneorum pygmaea* 'Ludmila', *D petraea* 'Idro' and *D arbuscula* 'Czech Crystal' all prefer a cooler situation. Other delights that Jiri grows in his tufa is *Petrophytum hendersonii*, *Degenia velebitica*, *Campanula choruhensis*, *Shortia galacifolia*, *Draba polytricha*, *Townsendia hookeri* and *Berneuxia*.

Our thanks to Jiri for his outstanding garden and presentation, a very enjoyable evening. His sense of humour and knowledge impressed his listeners.

## December Party Report by Kate Pearce

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – 7 DECEMBER 2024



A magnificent delphinium in Sue's garden that wowed the party-goers. Kate tells me it has survived despite two dogs efforts to deal to it!  
Photo Kate Pearce

Thankfully a warm day was enjoyed by many NZAGS members that travelled to Sue Petersen's garden at Coldstream Road in Rangiora after first visiting Gabor Csontos property in Kaiapoi. The first you notice is the large potting shed and shadehouse which houses an amazing and fearful array of prickly monsters. He is lucky to have a Council water race running through his back lawn which provides him an extra area for some special plants that love a bit of shade. In the middle of his lawn is a very extensive crevice garden and still more greenhouses that hold still more fascinating cacti and succulents. You could spend hours wandering around Gabor's garden-all established in less than 10 years.

Sue has a large garden that contains a wide variety of colourful perennials, shrubs, trees and lawn area. One outstanding feature was a double lilac delphinium with a green centre, that unfortunately does not produce seed, instead root growths have to be taken with limited success. After lunch and good conversation, the presentation of the trophies was completed with Dennis recording the events.

Many thanks to Sue, Gabor, Pauline, Jenny, Kathy & John for all their help to make it happen on the day.

And from the Chair, Pauline, -a big thank you to Sue and Kate for hosting us- a great setting, delicious food and the added bonus of plants, eggs, strawberries and asparagus for sale.



The world is green! A Christmas like no other, so cold and wet, no hosing required, weeds on steroids, lots of work to do when\if things fine up.

I've been busy repotting trilliums of all kinds that have sat around for a few years and stubbornly refusing to flower. I have done 38 so far, using a potting mix with my own compost added, rotted horse & sawdust and Osmocote - hopefully they'll now be shocked into flowering. A good time to do it as new white roots are just starting to form.

On a little trip south I found a plant new to me, for sale: *Damera peltata*, common name, "Indian Rhubarb". I'm always attracted to large-leaved shade-lovers, as they make great accent plants. This one has scalloped leaves, 5 inches across, a creeping rhizome, and clusters of pink flowers that appear before the leaves - I'm keeping a close eye on its behaviour tho'.

Those of you who follow the NZAGS Facebook page might remember a photo I put up of a dainty dwarf, white flowered delphinium, only 30cm high. The blue form was slowed down by frost in the winter but now has the most glorious, sky-blue flowers. So worth the wait. They are both unusual in that they have no "horns" like normal delphiniums. I will send seed of both to the seed exchange under "dwarf white" and "dwarf sky blue".

I am so enjoying the Federation daisies, bright coloured osteospermums (Cape Daisy) and perennial petunias, all of which came through the last winter to flower again this spring and summer. They are in a marginally sheltered spot and I did not cut them back in the autumn, maybe the extra protection saved them!

I'm watching the seed heads on *Paris stenophylla*, not sure if they have set seed or not, just living in hope. The same goes for *Phyteuma comosum*, it looks like some seed set, but I can't be sure yet, it's got a long way to go.



*Paris polyphylla* var *stenophylla*  
Photo INaturalist website



*Phyteuma comosum*  
Photo Shoot Gardening website



*Damera peltata*  
Photo Greenleaf Nurseries NZ website

## General Notices



This little bag has been on this peony since October waiting for the seed pod to ripen and dry.  
Photo Judith Stephens

### Seed Exchange

Now is the time to think about collecting seed from your favourite plants both in your garden or from the wild.

A good hint is to have some little gauze bags (from \$2 shops) and cover the seedpod so you won't lose any precious seed and they will wait for you to come and collect each and every little seed.

A few minutes both accurately identifying the seed and taking out any debris will be most appreciated by the Seed Distributors. Store in a paper envelope or small paper bag. Plastic bags create static and make getting the seed out of the bag problematic.

When you are ready post all packets in one envelope to the: Seed Director

PO Box 2984  
Christchurch 8140

Or you can bring seed to a meeting in Feb, March or April.

Ensure the envelope is clearly marked with your name, plant name and the date. Thank you.

### Are you interested in a botanical tour to Turkey?

One of our members of the NZAGS, Rebecca Hamid, is helping botanist Chris Gardner to organise a trip for May 2025. 'Iris and Alpine Tour of Eastern Turkey'

Click onto the link for the itinerary and details

<https://www.riverroadtruffles.com/tours>

Please contact Rebecca for further enquiries [info@riverroadtruffles.com](mailto:info@riverroadtruffles.com)

### Committee and Support Team 2024-25

#### NZAGS email addresses:

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## General Notices

### Summer Field Trip 2025 26th January (postponement date 2nd February)

Because of the fires in the Craigeburn area in December the area we were going to look at has been closed to the public so we are returning to the Cass Research Station area with an additional visit to the Foggy Peak area at the summit of Porters Pass.



- 8.30am- Leave Christchurch to arrive at the Canterbury University Research Station at 10am.  
Stay here for lunch and botanising until around 2.30 when we will leave. It is very easy to walk around.
- It is easy to find. Head west on SH73. After Lake Grassmere turn right into Cass Road and continue to the end of the road.
- On our way back to Christchurch we will stop at the carpark on the left hand side of State Highway 73 at the top of Porters Pass.  
There are a lot of interesting plants in this area. You can be as energetic as you like. There are some flatter areas worth looking at, as well as some higher climbs that will reveal more unique species.
- From here you can return to Christchurch any time or join us for coffee at the Springfield Store and Café (closes at 5pm) or the pub for an early meal on the way home.. .. It's a chance to warm up, cool down, relax and reflect on the great day out with good company.
- Car-pooling is available.  
Ring Judith (021 172 1516) Ann (021 149 7480) Rob (021 063 7702) if you would like to offer someone a ride or would like one.  
We don't need to travel in convoy - aim to be in Cass by 10am.
- Toilets and shelter will be available at the Research Station
- Bring your own lunch, drinks etc. Be prepared for all sorts of weather! Rain, sun, wind or whatever else nature throws at us.
- I do have one person who would like a ride. Please ring me if you have a spare seat in your car.

### Changed your address recently?

Please let Tina know so your Bulletin will be sent to the correct address.

[tina@nzags.com](mailto:tina@nzags.com)



# Monthly meeting Show Bench Results

6 October 2024 Judge: Dr Pieter Pelser & Matthias Spall	
OPEN EXOTIC Container Grown- UNDER 15CM	
1. <i>Trillium pusillum</i> var.ozarkanum	Alison Matthews
2. <i>Rhodohypoxis</i> double red	Irene Blair
3. <i>Androsace sarmentosa</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
OPEN -EXOTIC-Container Grown OVER 15CM	
1. <i>Narcissus yellow x1</i>	Esme Alpe
2. <i>Erythronium sp</i>	Esme Alpe
3. <i>Iris x elegantissima</i>	Gabor Csontos
OPEN- NATIVE Container Grown	
1. <i>Clematis marmoraria</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
OPEN -CUT BLOOM	
1. <i>Paeonia tenuifolia</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
2. <i>Trillium rivale</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
3. <i>Fritillaria biflora</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
OPEN - CUT BLOOM 3 of 3	
Helen Taylor	
Lynne Reyn	
NOVICE - EXOTIC Container Grown	
1. <i>Pleione</i>	Maureen Day
NOVICE - CUT BLOOM	
1. <i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Maureen Day
2. <i>Primula malacoides</i>	Donna Willocks
3. <i>Lathyrus sp</i>	Maureen Day
NOVICE CUT BLOOM 3 of 3	
Sue Petersen	
Donna Willocks	
Sue Petersen	
PREMIER PLANT	
<i>Clematis marmoraria</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
PREMIER BULB	
<i>Moraea (From the cut flower 3 of</i>	Helen Taylor

6 November 2024 Judge:Jiri Papousek	
OPEN EXOTIC Container Grown- UNDER 15CM	
1. <i>Graptopetalum filiferum</i>	Gabor Csontos
2. <i>Rebutia heliosa</i>	Gabor Csontos
3. <i>Ourisia coccinea</i>	Sue Petersen Kate Pearce
OPEN -EXOTIC-Container Grown OVER 15CM	
1. <i>Rhodohypoxis baurii</i>	Donna Willocks
2. <i>Rhododendron</i> 'Tom Thumb	Ann & Joe Cartman
3. <i>Calochorus lutea</i>	Suzanne Pickford
OPEN- NATIVE Container Grown	
1. <i>Ranunculus lyllaii</i>	Suzanne Pickford
2. <i>Ophioglossum coriaceum</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
OPEN -CUT BLOOM	
1. <i>Pimelea</i> 'My Love'	Ann & Joe Cartman
2. <i>Rhododendron</i> 'Pipit'	Ann & Joe Cartman
3. <i>Iris acutiloba</i>	Chris Garland
OPEN - CUT BLOOM 3 of 3	
1. Sue Petersen	
2. Sue Petersen	
NOVICE - EXOTIC Container Grown	
1. <i>Lewisia cotyledon album</i>	Jane Griffen
NOVICE- NATIVE Container Grown	
1. <i>Myosotis saxosa</i>	Matt Walters
NOVICE - CUT BLOOM	
	Maureen Day
PREMIER PLANT	
<i>Ranunculus lyallii</i>	Suzanne Pickford
PREMIER BULB	
<i>Rhodohypoxis baurii</i>	Donna Willocks
Open classes are for entrants who have accumulated more than 50 points, whilst Novice classes are for those who haven't. Do check with Gabor which classes you should enter. I see a number of entries in the wrong classes.	

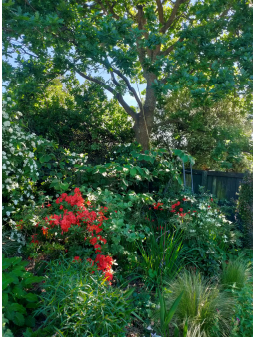
## CITY GARDEN VISITS - 10th November 2024

Members of the NZ Alpine Plant Society turned out in a large number to visit six city gardens on Sunday 10th November.

The gardens were spread all over the city from Cashmere to New Brighton. It was a very successful day and the weather was perfect.

Members visited the first three gardens as a group.

Garden 1 (photo below)



At 10am we met at Pauline Murphy's garden in Beckenham. While we enjoyed a cup of coffee and something nice to eat we wandered around Pauline's garden and took note of the huge collection of interesting plants she has. It really is a 'plants-person's garden'.

Garden 2 (photo on right)

About an hour later we all made our way to the second garden belonging to Lynne Reyn in Cashmere. This is a beautifully cared-for hillside garden full of lush plants that manage to escape the cruel frosts that attack similar



plants in gardens in lower parts of the city.

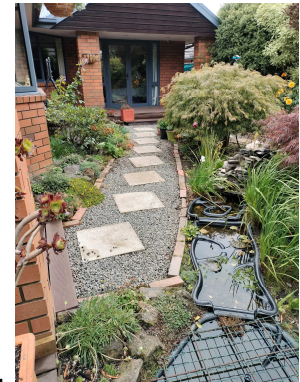
Garden 3 (Photo on right)

Everyone was ready for lunch by the time we got to Judith Stephen's garden in Avondale.

Judith's garden is on a 1200sqm back section looking over Avondale Golf Course. She and her husband planted the larger native trees in 2006 and the borders have evolved over that time as well. The rockery and pond area were post-earthquake projects after the house lifted and levelled and the Japanese garden was a Lockdown project.

Smaller growing rhododendrons, nearly 40, are a feature of the garden. Judith's favourite plant in the garden is a pot of *Weldenia candida*.

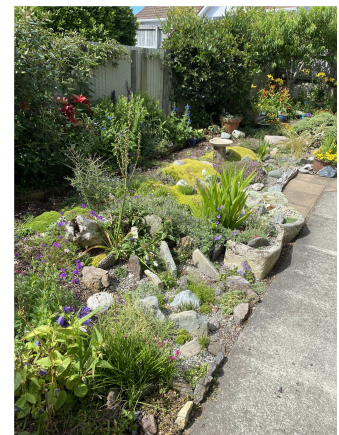
There were three gardens to visit after lunch, and to do that, the visitors were split into two groups. Because of the small garden sizes we needed to stagger the numbers and venues were swapped half way through the afternoon.



Gardens 4 and 5 (Photo of Rob's garden on the left and Daisy's on the right)

Rob Lines' and Daisy Newton's gardens are next to each other in New Brighton. They are both small with a mix of rock plants, perennials and natives. As they are 200m from the sea the gardens have dry sandy conditions.

Rob's is a collector's garden, which is a mix of perennials, alpinines and native plants 200m from Brighton Beach. Rocks, as well as



shrubs and trees, provide protection for the garden from the sun and drying coastal winds.

Daisy's garden shows what you can do with a little space, rocks, gravel and a sunny location.

A wide range of alpine plants thrive here. Around the perimeter there are perennials and climbers on the fence and shrubs.

## Garden 6

Robyn Kilty's garden is in a street bounded by the Avon River and Fitzgerald Avenue. Robyn provided a guided tour of her beautiful garden and her historic cottage.

On her excellent website Robyn says about this particular part of the garden -

"This impressive white wisteria is a "stayer" and is called 'Snow Showers'. It is the very last plant of the season to flower heralding the end of spring, saying "goodbye spring, hello summer". Its white petals drop all over my bricked courtyard garden just as the early roses start to flower."

Gavin Bishop  
November 2024



Thanks very much to the people who generously opened their gardens for us.

## My Favourite Plant *Adrian Bliss*

Adrian has been a member of the NZAGS for decades. He has filled many roles over the years. President, at two different times, and on the Council for many years. He is a chief organiser of many of our Study Weekends, Spring Shows and other notable events. Adrian has also been instrumental in developing our new constitution. He is a Life Member. This is his choice.....

One of my favourite plants and in this case, not an alpine, is *Rhododendron macabeum*, which is a large-leaf tree type species rhododendron.

The foliage is enormous, 45cm x 20cm, oval, smooth, dark green on the top and the undersides have woolly indumentum. It has large trusses of up to 20 creamy yellow flowers.

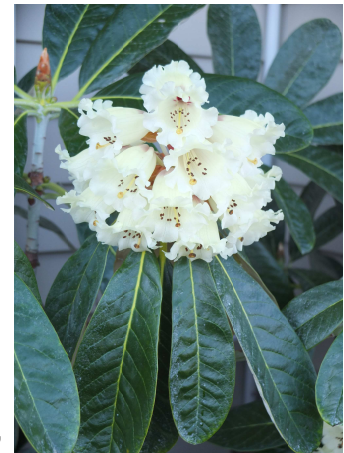
Our plant has a bit of history. Nedra Johnson, one of our NZAGS members, President and always willing to help, (now deceased), was living in Bishopspark, Ryman's Retirement Village. When Ryman's decided to close and the buildings etc were to be demolished, Nedra put the call out that the rhododendron was available. All you had to do was dig it up and transport it to its new location, which in our case, was Rangiora.

Armed with shovels, and Nedra project-managing, said rhododendron was eventually lifted on to our trailer and on its way.

The rhododendron duly arrived and with great effort was planted against the fence on the south side of our house. The following spring it was in flower. Sadly we had a heavy frost and the flowers turned brown and we knew we had to shift it. Luckily there was space on the house side of the path and some protection under the eaves. Nedra's plant now in its happy place, flowering well with a lot of new growth.

Greer's guidebook on rhododendrons advises *macabeum*'s can grow to 15metres, but I will be long gone before this is an issue.

Adrian Bliss.

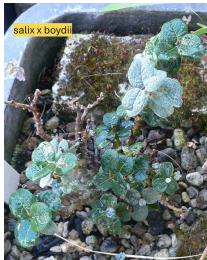




# My Favourite Plants Robert Duns

Robert has been a member of the NZAGS for many years and has always been instrumental in organising our Shows and Exhibitions as well as our current Treasurer and Librarian. These are his choices, today.

I live in a village with limited space, so my alpine plants are all grown in pots or troughs. I have a number of bulbs which provide spring colour and other perennials such as dianthus, but need to have 'base' plants that provide structure throughout the year. It is for this reason that they are classified as 'must have' rather than as flowering or rarity.



**Salix x boydii:** another small 'shrub', which is good for a trough. I have had this one for about 10 years and it has grown very little in that time – it is now 3 inches high. It will eventually grow to about 12 inches tall – I don't think that I will see it get to that height !

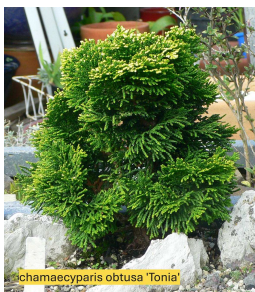
While it is deciduous, it is an interesting plant:

"This dwarf shrub was discovered by Bill Boyd growing in the wilds of Scotland near Glen Clova in Angus in the 1870's. It has been discovered only once in the wild, and all subsequent cultivated plants have been derived from this original chance hybrid plant discovered by Boyd. Its parents are believed to be *Salix lanata* (compact bushy shrub to 3' tall) and *Salix reticulata* (compact bushy shrub to 5' tall)."

**Pinus mugo 'gnom/ gnome':** a useful shrub for all year display, and very slow growing – eventually 15 inches high after 25 years. I have another dwarf variety available as well - **Pinus mugo 'mops'** which is very similar in its early stages but as it grows is starting to show a more upright form. These are varieties of the 'dreaded' parent tall species, *Pinus mugo*, which is currently being eradicated from the New Zealand landscape.



**Ulmus davidiana pygmaea** Not much to look at in the winter as it is deciduous, but does provide structure to the trough when other plants are dormant. A great addition to a trough at other times of the year. This one came from Hokonui Alpines many years ago. I also have another one that is very similar - **Ulmus parvifolia 'Hokkaido'** : A miniature Japanese variety of *Ulmus parvifolia* the dwarf Chinese elm, which is available locally.



**Calluna sedlondii:** a variety of heather which has pink flowers, and is drought and frost tolerant. It may eventually grow to about 12 inches high.

**Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Tonia':** my plant is about 4 inches high [purchased 2021] and at 8 years could be 12 inches high. It has white tips to some of the shoots – again providing structure to the trough.



**Gentians;** I have a number of these and I have no particular favourite. As there are European alpine and Asian varieties there are different flowering times and growing conditions, which can cause problems in locating the right place in the garden. I grow them in big pots or troughs to accommodate their large root system.



## My six favourites

Chris Garland

Chris is a keen member of the NZAGS. She has stewarded at many past shows and when she moved to Rolleston joined the Council and supported many of our events. At the same time she was developing a large garden in her new home. She also volunteers weekly in the Rock Garden in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens weeding, repotting or any other jobs Grant gives her.

Choosing six favourite plants has been really difficult. All plants in my garden are favourites for many different reasons whether they are pleasing to the eye, a reminder of the generous friend that has given it to me or I have raised it from seed.



*Shortia* or *Schizocodon* - The highlight of a visit to Gothenburg Botanic Garden was seeing *Shortia* used as an edging plant along the paths in the Woodland Garden. A sight I will never forget. I have a patch in the slat garden but it has not flowered for a couple of years.

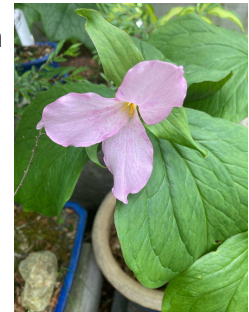
*Adonis vernalis* - I have two plants grown from seed which have not flowered yet growing in the rock garden. I am hoping they flower next year. One is looking particularly healthy so here is hoping. I love the feathery foliage with lovely yellow flowers.



*Trillium grandiflorum roseum* - very hard to choose a plant from this genus but I do love *T. grandiflorum roseum* for both the foliage and the flower. When the leaves are emerging they are a beautiful dark reddy colour tinged with green aging to a dark green. The flower is the most delicate shade of pink and is reasonably long-lasting.



*Campanula* 'Maie Blyth' - 'Maie Blyth' is the dearest small Campanula staying very compact. It grows happily on the rock garden. I love all campanulas for their summer flowering. Also nice that Maie Blyth herself was raised in Timaru. Photo with thanks from Lesley Cox.

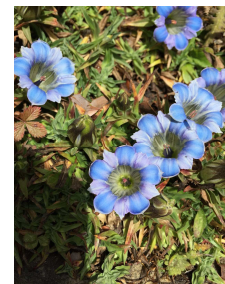


*Gentiana depressa* - I love all gentians, but as I like a challenge trying to succeed with plants that can be a bit difficult, 'depressa' is my choice at the moment. I have a plant that covers a large pot that I am hoping will flower this year.



*Fritillaria meleagris* - one of the easiest fritillaria to grow but a truly beautiful bulb. The flowers are many shades of chequered pink through to white. Lovely in a big clump.

Chris



If anyone is interested Lesley wrote a very good article on the campanula mentioned about. She wrote it on the Scottish Rock Garden Forum in response to an article in the 'International Rock Gardener'-A monthly online magazine for members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. Her article appeared on the forum on April 3rd 2017. Worth looking for. ED

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