





NEW ZEALAND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY Inc 1960 - 2024

Newsletter

October/November/December 2024

NZ Alpine Garden Society Inc.
PO Box 2984
Christchurch 8140
Email: info@nzags.com

 [New Zealand Alpine Garden Society Group](#)
 [nzalpinegarden](#)

Calendar of Events

Terrace Station events

11am- 3pm \$10pp
151 Milnes Road Hororata

- **6 October**-bluebells in the woodlands
- **3 November** -aquilegia, and other summer flowers.

www.terracestation.org

11-13 October

Trillium Weekend Geraldine
More details on page 3.

31 October - 3 November

Hurunui Garden Tour

10 November

Garden Visits around
Christchurch

14-17 November

"Meet us in the Country"
Selwyn district Gardens open
days. www.selwyn.nz/spring

26 January (or if really wet February 2nd)

Trip to Craigieburn and Otira
Valley

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=xpFBJbvfmTboglkX7nsaSnxoRj3txR.1)
[pwd=xpFBJbvfmTboglkX7nsa](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87408735664?pwd=xpFBJbvfmTboglkX7nsaSnxoRj3txR.1)
[SnxoRj3txR.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87408735664?pwd=xpFBJbvfmTboglkX7nsaSnxoRj3txR.1)

Meeting ID: 874 0873 5664

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

3 October 8pm

Dr Pieter Pelser. Plant taxonomist from Uni.Cant.
'89,000 and counting: documenting Philippine plant diversity one
photo at a time'.

Supper

Rangiora ladies- Sue, Kate, Carol, Maureen

7 November 8pm Steve Newall Memorial Speaker (\$5 entry)

Jiri Papousek. Jiri is from The Czech Republic. Jiri will speak about
his love of crevice gardens, troughs, peat and tufa gardens.

Supper

Jane Griffen Jan Webber

7 December Christmas and Awards Function

Sue Petersen's garden 108 Coldstream Road Rangiora
Rangiora and Kaiapoi area. More details later by email.

Botanical Expo and Spring Show

By the time you read this these events will be over for another
year. Friends who catch up will have reconnected, plants bought
for the rockery or garden and those who enter plants in the
various sections will go home with a bundle of certificates and
trophies etc.

I hope it went well and everyone was happy. The volunteers
who help with judging, setting up and cleaning up are very much
appreciated.

The results and report are on pages 9 and 10.

Chair's Chat

Pauline Murphy

A deviation from President's Pen, after we voted in our new Constitution at the September Special General Meeting. This was subsequently submitted to the NZ Incorporated Societies Register – so can formally be adopted by our Society. There will be a few small changes as we bed in the new guidelines –please bear with us. Many thanks to those who gave us feedback and to Adrian, Jenny and Andrew who got us over the line.

Many thanks too, to Kathy, Irene and Hilary, for their time on Council; I am reassured by their continued support to the Society. They have a wealth of knowledge of Society matters, are active contributors and are always willing to participate. We welcome Rob Lines to the committee- he can be contacted by email- rob@nzags.com

We not only adopted our new constitution at the September meeting but also held a 'now really and truly world famous quiz' night – lots of curly questions, heaps of fun. Even better, despite the judges being heckled at times, they could not be swayed And we all came home with some wonderful treasures grown by Hamish and Mika – so very successful - an annual event I believe!

We also acknowledged the passing of Kingi Tuheitia (Maori King), and the crowning of his daughter and new Maori Queen, Nga wai hono i te po, – an historic day in New Zealand. The Kingitanga movement's key guiding principle is kotahitanga – unity. I believe that the NZAGS also operates under this 'guidance' with the love of plants unifying us together in friendship.... Without this kotahitanga we wouldn't have amazing events, such as the Show and Botanical Expo, garden visits and our Christmas gathering and awards.....I, for one, very much appreciate the friends I have found through the NZAGS and I look forward to catching up

Council Meeting's Update

Jenny Ladley Secretary

We have had a busy few months at the council meetings getting ready for the Annual General Meeting in August and the September Special General Meeting to adopt the new Constitution, as well as all the other day-to-day jobs we do.

AGM Summary:

We farewelled three much valued members of the council at the August AGM. Kathy, Hilary and Irene will be missed at future meetings. They are still going to be active members in the group and will no doubt assist the Society in different ways other than being on the committee. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their dedication and hard work while on the Council. On a positive note Rob Lines has joined the committee and his participation in the meetings is welcomed.

The annual financial reports showed that the Society is in a healthy financial state and we currently have over 250 members. The Seed and Bulletin reports highlighted just how much we do each year, as a group.

Special General Meeting and new Constitution:

For many months the council and a dedicated team (special thanks to Adrian Bliss and Andrew Young) have been working through the process of creating the new Constitution (as required under the Incorporated Societies 2022 Act). We have successfully re-registered the Constitution and the Society. As of 10 September 2024 we are now operating under the rules as set out in the 2024 Constitution.

This will be the last 'Council' update, in the next newsletter this will be the Committee update as we move to using the new names and titles.

Upcoming Speakers for October and November

October

Pieter Pelser, University of Canterbury lecturer and curator of their herbarium, will talk to us about the 'Co's Digital Flora of the Philippines': This is an online checklist of Philippine vascular plants that aims to present a continuously updated account of all native and naturalized species of vascular plants in the Philippines with diagnostic photographs for each taxon. It is the only publicly available overview of vascular plants of the Philippines. Peter is a co-founder and a main editor for Co's Digital Flora in the Philippines.

His other research interests include the Philippine members of the genus *Rafflesia*, and in particular, the conservation of them and the evolutionary history of the tribe Senecioneae within the Asteraceae, one of the largest tribes in the largest family of flowering plants.

Co's Digital Flora website: <https://www.philippineplants.org>

Introducing our international speaker...

November

Jiri Papousek, from the Czech Republic, is coming to New Zealand as the guest of the Steve Newall Memorial Fund group.

Jiri will be our guest speaker at the November meeting. He is an expert in rock, crevice and tufa gardening and in the cultivation of theme-appropriate genus such as *Androsace*, *Dionysia*, *Saxifraga*, *Daphne* etc.

He has a lot of experience as a speaker around the world. His Facebook page under his own name, if you want to follow his posts on the variety of special plants he cultivates.

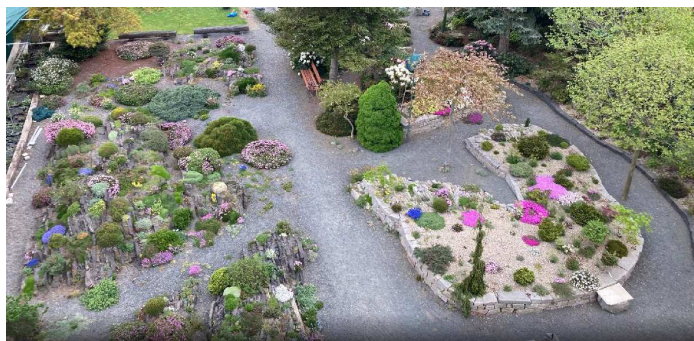
He is a member of Prague Rock Garden Club and SRGC. His garden situated 10 km from Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. at an altitude of 200 m.

He has 35 years of experience of growing and exhibiting alpine at Prague Rock Garden's Shows.

Jiri was a member of the International Czech Rock Garden Conference organising committee in 2007, 2013, 2017 and 2023.

This meeting is open to non-members, do bring your friends and family along. \$5 entry includes a lucky number.

He will be doing further talks around the country- details on our website.



Jiri kindly sent me some photos of himself and his crevice gardens, plus a couple of his favourite plants. Thanks so much Jiri.

August Speaker Report by Kate Pearce

SPRING EXPO PREPARATIONS

Ann Cartman & Hamish Brown kept us all entertained with their hints and tips for preparing exhibits pots. First of all they explained the differences for each Class of the schedule to help assist getting your entries in the correct section

ie. Grade A - Pot less 15cm, Grade B – Pot over 15cm and Grade C – Cut Flower.

Trillium 16A – Chloropetalum, Kurabayashii, Ludoviciana, Luteum, Maculatum and Sessile (3 leaves)

Trillium 16B – Rivale and Nivale

Trillium 16C – All other types – Camschatcense, Cernuum, Erectum, Flexipes, Grandiflorum, Ovatum and Sulcatum

Class 19 – Any other bulbous type material – short botanical list is available- ask a Steward for a copy before putting on the show bench.

Rogue's Gallery of Exhibits being: chewed leaves, weeds, dirty pots, flowers past their best, broken flowers and 'livestock' !

Geophyte – Bulbs, Corm, Rhizome & Tuber

Terracotta verse plastic or Round versus square– does not matter ! However, most exhibitors seem to prefer plastic round pots.

Double potting is an excellent way to present your plant in a less than ideal pot.

Points Criteria for Judging: Success in cultivation 60%, Skill in cultivation 30% and Presentation 10%

When exhibiting cut flowers, please ensure that you have water in the vase! Cut flowers the night before and lie in water to their necks. Bottles are excellent for keeping stems straight. When displaying three flowers in a vase, make two the same height and the third higher. Judges are not allowed to judge the exhibit negatively due to the mulch used, so bark or gravel are acceptable. Malt Vinegar is good for killing Bittercress rosettes with a very fine paintbrush application. There is always a source of water nearby and the Society provides a bucket of sphagnum moss to secure stems in vases.

Ann's kit has a 'show kit' when exhibiting which includes: Glasses, snips, long tweezers, skewers, plastic straws for supporting weak stems during transportation and eucalyptus oil for getting labels off.

Many thanks to Ann and Hamish for talking the time to enlighten members on the finer points of exhibiting – I hope you got your tweezers back from Hamish !

September Meeting Report by Judith Stephens

A large crowd of over 50 people attended the Special General Meeting to hear about the proposed new Constitution and to take part in the Botanical Quiz.

As members came into the meeting room they were given a coloured paperclip. This told them which team they were in. Drinks, sandwiches and slices were also available.

The preparation of questions was amazing. Hamish and Mika had prepared 100 questions on a variety of topics that ranged from identifying plants to film characters. This sorted out team's. Each question was matched with a photograph. It was a light-hearted evening. Prizes, donated by Hamish and Mika were generously given to section winners.

Alongside the quiz members were encouraged to dress up, wearing their favourite gumboots, hats and outfits which were judged by Ann and Joe Cartman. Winners were Paulette Smail, looking most elegant for an afternoon in the garden, Adrian Bliss for his decorated hat and Nancy Ridder, who had a most beautiful sunhat.

It was a wonderful evening and sure to be repeated in the future.

Thank you to all the organisers for your contribution to what was a memorable evening.

Sadly Joy is unable to contribute this issue. I am sure she would have talked about spring and the delight of bulbs and flowering shrubs and trees showing off their wares. The weather has been very kind during September, although wind has been a problem for those who garden in areas prone to north-west winds. A walk through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens recently was a delight with the cherry blossoms, magnolias and other flowering trees at their very best. I can't wait for the rhododendrons and azaleas in October and November.

I wish Joy well for good health and recovery over the summer months.

General Notices

New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Martin Steel-Brown	Auckland
Robyn White	Christchurch
Margaret Long	Tai Tapu
Kate Foster	Hororata
Bronwyn Simes	Dunedin

Trillium Weekend 11 - 13 October

This year the base is the Woodbury Hall near Geraldine.
Friday evening- Gather in the hall for Meet and Greet, finger food and BYO drinks

Saturday - Garden visits Dinner

Sunday - More Garden visits in the Woodbury and Geraldine area. Some large and some small.

Sales all weekend.

If you are interested in joining in please get in touch with Daryl and Linda d4rowans@outlook.com

NZAGS Annual Awards

Nominations for the two awards in 2024 are welcome.

For both awards a member must be considered first. If there is none suitable, the awards may be awarded to a non-member.

BYLLEE AND JOHN HANNAN AWARD - To any member who has made a significant contribution over any period of time to the promotion of alpine plants in New Zealand.

HILDA HEARN AWARD - To any member who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of the gardening of alpine plants in New Zealand in the preceding year.

Please email your nomination with your commendation reasons to: secretary@nzags.co by 31 October 2024

Committee and Support Team 2024-25

NZAGS email addresses:

Pauline Murphy	pauline@nzags.com
Suzanne Pickford	suzanne@nzags.com
Hamish Brown	hamish@nzags.com
Robert Duns	robert@nzags.com
Ai-Ling Chang	ai-ling@nzags.com
Jenny Ladley	jenny@nzags.com
Tina Bunce	tina@nzags.com
Gabor Csontos	gabor@nzags.com
Rob Lines	rob@nzags.com

Additional contact addresses:

info@nzags.com	
showsecretary@nzags.com	Tina
secretary@nzags.com	Jenny
president@nzags.com	Pauline
editor@nzags.com	Bulletin Suzanne
seeddirector@nzags.com	Hilary
treasurer@nzags.com	Robert
showconvenor@nzags.com	Robert
judith@nzags.com	Newsletter Judith

General Notices

Garden Visits around Christchurch

10 November

Gavin and Vivian have planned an interesting list of gardens for members to visit.

- Time: 10am
- Where: 27 Martin Avenue Beckenham - Pauline Murphy's garden

This will be the start of the tour. A cup of tea will be provided here.

- Gardens include Rob Lines, Daisy Newton, Robyn Kiltie, Judith Stephens and Lynne Reyn among others.
- Addresses will be given to you on the day.
- Bring your own lunch, drink and a chair.

Summer Field Trip 2025

25th January (postponement date 2nd February)

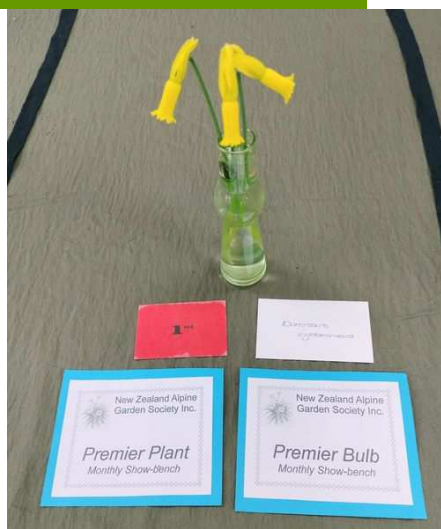
Early next year we are returning to the Craigieburn Skifield with an additional visit to the Foggy Peak area at the summit of Porters Pass.

- 8.30am- Leave Christchurch to arrive at Craigieburn Skifield Lodge at 10am.
Stay here for lunch and botanising until around 2.30 when we will leave.
- 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, as 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 at Craigieburn Ski Lodge at 10am.
- The closest toilets are in the Castle Hill Village or in Springfield.
- Bring your own lunch, drinks etc. Be prepared for all sorts of weather! Rain, sun, wind or whatever else nature throws at us.



Monthly Meeting Show Bench Results

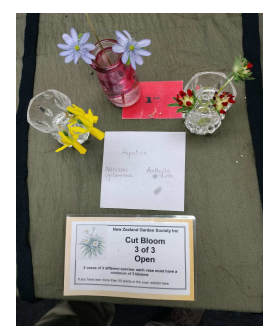
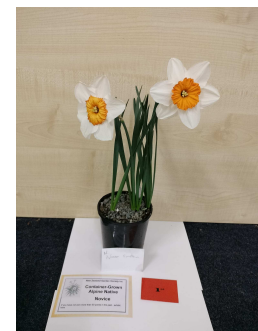
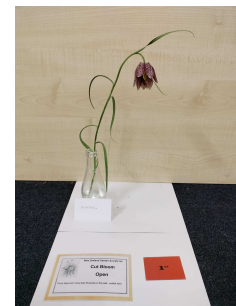
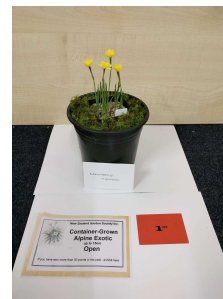
1 August 2024 Judge: Louise Mitchell	
OPEN EXOTIC- UNDER 15CM	
1. <i>Freesia</i> ?????	Suzanne Pickford
2. <i>Narcissus cyclamineus</i> hyb	Ann & Joe Cartman
3. <i>Galanthus</i> 'Wasp'	Esme Nicholson
OPEN -EXOTIC- OVER 15CM	
1. <i>Dionysia aretioides</i>	Suzanne Pickford
2. <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> 'Tenzan'	Suzanne Pickford
3. <i>Gladiolus liliaceus</i>	Judith Stephens
OPEN- NATIVE	
1. <i>Myosotis pulvinaris</i>	Suzanne Pickford
2. <i>Aciphylla polita</i>	Hamish & Mika Brown
3. <i>Aciphylla kirkii</i>	Hamish & Mika Brown
OPEN -CUT BLOOM	
1. <i>Narcissus cyclamineus</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
2. <i>Canarina canariensis</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
3. <i>Iris reticulata</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
NOVICE - EXOTIC	
1. <i>Galanthus sharlockii</i>	Pauline Murphy
2. <i>Galanthus sharlockii</i>	Pauline Murphy
3. <i>Gal. elwesii</i> var. <i>monostictus</i>	Pauline Murphy
NOVICE - CUT BLOOM	
1. <i>Chaenomeles</i>	Pauline Murphy
2. <i>Erysimum</i>	Pauline Murphy
3. <i>Chaenomeles</i>	Pauline Murphy
NOVICE- CUT BLOOM 3 OF 3	
PREMIER PLANT	
<i>Narcissus cyclamineus</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
PREMIER BULB	
<i>Narcissus cyclamineus</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman



Photos: Dennis Chang

Monthly Meeting Show Bench Results

6 September 2024 Judge: Reuben Ellison & Megan Tan	
OPEN EXOTIC Container Grown- UNDER 15CM	
1. <i>Narcissus rupicola</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
2. <i>Dendrobium nobile</i>	Gabor Csontos
3. <i>Trillium rivale</i>	Alison Matthews
OPEN -EXOTIC-Container Grown OVER 15CM	
1. <i>Fritillaria imperialis</i> -red	Esme Alpe
2. <i>Pleione formosana</i>	Robert Duns
3. <i>Lachenalia</i> sp	Gabor Csontos
OPEN- NATIVE Container Grown	
1. <i>Celmisia</i> sp x	Hamish & Mika Brown
OPEN -CUT BLOOM	
1. <i>Fritillaria</i>	Barbara Lischner
2. <i>Muscari macrocapum</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
3. <i>Pieris japonica</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
OPEN - CUT BLOOM 3 of 3	
	Sue Petersen
NOVICE - EXOTIC Container Grown	
1. <i>Narcissus</i> 'Professor Einstein'	Jenny Ladley
2. <i>Trillium</i>	Matt Walters
3. <i>Anemone x lipsiensis</i>	Matt Walters
NOVICE - CUT BLOOM	
1. <i>Freesia</i>	Maureen Day
2. <i>Grape Hyacinth (Muscari)</i>	Maureen Day
3. <i>Cherry Blossom</i>	?
NOVICE CUT BLOOM 3 of 3	
	Lynne Reyn
	Maureen Day
PREMIER PLANT	
<i>Hesperantha cucullata</i> scented	Prue Fandslow-Brown
PREMIER BULB	
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman



All photos taken by Dennis Chang

A reminder to exhibitors- Cut Bloom is 1-3 flowers in a vase in the Cut Bloom Section.
Cut Bloom 3 of 3 is 3 vases each with 3 flowers of different species. See the 2 photos above. The one of the left is a cut bloom while the one on the right is 3 of 3.

Spring Show Results 2024

NZAGS Spring Show Results 2024		
AGS TROPHY (<i>Premier plant</i>)	<i>Iris camillae x kirkwoodii</i>	Hamish & Mika Brown
Byllee and John Hannan Memorial Trophy (<i>Most points in show</i>)		Hamish & Mika Brown
Otago Alpine Garden Group NZAGS 25th Anniversary Salver (<i>Champion Potted Plant</i>)	Flowering Cherry Tree	Myra Yeban
Gala Plants Trophy (<i>Best bulbous plant</i>)	<i>Cyclamen repandum album</i>	Ann & Joe Cartman
NZAGS Christchurch Earthquake Memorial Trophy (<i>Champion potted non-bulbous</i>)	<i>Saxifraga strobilata</i>	Hamish & Mika Brown
Tweedy Trophy (<i>Champion container-grown woody shrub</i>)	Flowering Cherry Tree	Myra Yeban
Cora Ault Memorial Trophy (<i>Premier Native Plant</i>)	<i>Clematis</i> 'Hokonui'	Ann & Joe Cartman
Arthur Dixon Memorial Prize (<i>Most points in show- New Zealand Alpines</i>)	Most points in Native Sections	Hamish & Mika Brown
Dorothy Billcliff Trophy (<i>Champion Cut Flower- bulbous</i>)	<i>Iris camillae x kirkwoodii</i>	Hamish & Mika Brown
NZAGS Trophy (<i>Champion cut flower non-bulbous</i>)	<i>Iris camillae x kirkwoodii</i>	Hamish & Mika Brown
Ina Mumberson Trophy (<i>Champion cut flower-woody</i>)	<i>Rhododendron</i> 'Razorbill'	Ann & Joe Cartman
Harwood Trophy (<i>Best trade/static display</i>)	'Behind the Hedge Garden Co.'	Kate Pearce & Sue Petersen
Edna Parkyn Award (<i>Champion Novice Exhibit</i>)	<i>Trillium rivale</i>	Barbara Lischner
Marion Saxton Trophy (<i>Best Decorative Arrangement</i>)		Emma Maslen
Saxton Memorial (<i>Champion Narcissus</i>)	<i>Narcissus</i> 'Fairy Chimes'	Hilary Plunket
Marion Saxton Award (<i>Best Photographic Exhibit</i>)	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Paulette Smaill
NZAGS Spring Show Award (<i>Champion Mini-garden</i>)		Susan Dunshea

Also certificates were awarded to the following exhibitors
 Best Cacti- *Tubinicaarpus valdezanus* Gabor Csontos
 Best Succulent *Ceropegia stapeliiformis* Gabor Csontos
 Best 3 of 3 Lynne Reyn

Botanical Expo and Spring Show Report

Props, plants, banners, flowers, tables, tablecloths, raffle prizes, brochures....it was all go on Friday afternoon, with the Lincoln Event Centre hall transformed into a gardeners' wonderland, for the Annual NZ Alpine Garden Society Show and Botanical Expo. A co-operative effort between Daffodil Society, NZAGS, Canterbury Floral Art Design and Christchurch Horticultural Society to bring together like-minded lovers of plants.

You know that the public are excited to enter the Expo when the curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens is the first in line Many stall holders were swamped for the first hour or so.....even though the rush eased there always appeared to be a steady flow of buyers, viewers and potential new members, judging by the enthusiastic responses we received.

Competition for the show prizes was fierce; but as a first-time exhibitor, I must say how supportive the 'seasoned' exhibitors were. The NZAGS sales table was groaning under the weight of donated treasures, members stalls provided a chance to find some rare, hard to find in commercial nurseries special plants. Even if you didn't go to the expo looking for a special plant – I bet like me you came home with more than one bag load! At the NZAGS stand we tried to open up the stand and showcase an overflowing of garden flowers – potted and in massive 'vases'..... old, galvanised buckets, glass Agee jars, enamel jugs and miniature test tubes were filled with a colourful array of foliage and flowers – and in amongst the display we did manage to sell raffle tickets, and to promote the NZAGS.... The show tables, precisely set out, awed members and public all weekend with the variety, delicate nature, sheer exuberance of growth and colour.....congratulations to all exhibitors and winners! The results are published in this newsletter.

Without the hard work of the show committee, judges and stewards, as well as many volunteers before and after the show, this extravaganza would not be possible. A successful edition to the show classes was the school exhibits – the brainchild and execution of Sue and Kate. Doug, our judge, Jenny and I, as stewards were delighted by the Animal Vegetable characters.

The Show by the numbers –

- 1 - Premier Plant – exhibited by power couple Hamish and Mika – Iris camillae x kirkwoodii, an extremely beautiful but hard to grow Oncocylus iris
- 2 - fabulous days of camaraderie through our love of plants
- 3 - prizes won by Bev – novice and first-time exhibitor!
- 6 - lucky raffle winners
- 7 - knowledgeable but unbribeable judges
- 12 – members stallholders – selling rare and difficult to find treasures
- 250 - NZAGS members – volunteers, sellers, judges, stalwarts of the society – bringing this all together!
- 380 - entries from Local Schools Classes – thanks to Kate and Sue for their hard work
- 506 - show entries
- 1600 people through the doors

\$3992.70 – raised by the society through the sales table – thanks to all who donated plants and helped out at the stall

Without all your combined contributions we wouldn't have such a vibrant society, show, expo – so thank you ALL.

The committee would like to acknowledge the passing of Maria Kay. She gave of her time and technical knowledge very generously to the NZAGS. Maria was instrumental in revamping of both the NZAGS and the Expo websites- much of her work was done for free.

Our show and the Expo a huge success By Suzanne Pickford

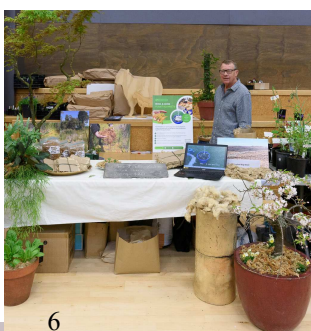
Members of our society work all year to get the Expo on the road. Myself, Kathy Chamberlain, Ai-Ling Chang and Hamish Brown are on the Expo Committee representing our interests. Motivated by the need to have our Show the biggest success it can be with the public, we have achieved incredible results this year with 1600 paying visitors. This is almost entirely due to the huge hours put in by Ai-Ling Chang in charge of social media and the website. Last year we thought we did well. We had 1200 with a generous estimate of helpers included in this total. Kathy kept all the balls in the air this year making sure everything was on track and doing the NZAGS proud with her articles for the Lincoln and Selwyn papers. Next year we are underway working toward the South Island National Daffodil Show which will be a good drawcard. Hughes Developments have been super sponsors again this year. A special thanks to our member David Hobbs who donated 100 Broadfield Garden tickets for free to the EXPO and with them Ai-Ling raised over \$1000 to keep us going as sponsorship tightens up. It is great sharing the workload with the CHS and floral artists and this year the Bonsai enthusiasts too. The committee are very keen for more workers from NZAGS to share the load, it's an online get together to distribute the tasks. We are a happy team. It is important to have our representation strong and ongoing. If we all do a little...

On behalf of members up and down the country I would like to thank the Show Committee (Ann Cartman, Robert Duns, Adrian Bliss and Tina Bunce) who, between them organised all the unseen things that go on to make a show a success. Things such as organising the schedule, printing of entry cards, stewards, judges and all the other jobs needed to be done before the show happens. Raffles, polishing trophies, rosters for helping on the door, sales tables and all the myriad of little jobs that are required all take time. Show Day is a busy time-setting up tables, making sure plants are in the correct classes, writing all the winners on certificates and so on, packing up afterwards as well. Recognising the entrants in all the classes, and the winners of trophies and awards is an important part of the show and this will be officially done at the Christmas meeting when the recipients will be presented with their trophies. The dinner was well supported by members with the speakers, Daryl and Linda Rowan, from Palmerston North entertaining us with their exploits in Europe. Dennis Chang took hundreds of photos over the two days and some have been included here and many are on the Facebook page which is well-worth looking at. Sue Petersen and Kate Pearce organised Selwyn district schools to enter the colouring competition, vegetable animal competitions which will hopefully develop awareness of the NZAGS and its activities. This was an innovation this year after a few years absence and was very well supported. Janis, on the NZAGS sales table, along with her team made a huge contribution as well. There were many new faces bringing their plants, blankets, worm fertilisers and all the specialty sellers like Rhodo Direct, Trilliums etc, as well as the Christchurch Bonsai Society who held their Annual Show at the same time. Dave and Leitha Adams had a great display of daffodils which made it colourful. There are many others too, who made a contribution, who I haven't named, but your help and enthusiasm is non-the-less much appreciated. The success of the show was due to many people volunteering their time and enthusiasm. Something which is to be treasured.

Judith Stephens (who couldn't be present but heard many good reports about the weekend)



Botanical Expo and Spring Show 2024



1. A selection of colourful cut flowers
2. Our Secretary, Jenny Ladley, and Joyce Brown
3. Janis Gledhill, our super seller, with our NZAGS sales table
4. The judges voting for the Premier Awards. They have all the Top Table winners in front of them and are choosing the supreme exhibits
5. The NZAGS sales table bulging with treats.
6. John and Kathy Chamberlain's table selling 'wool blankets' for plants.
7. The scene before the show started.
8. Bev Bulmer, a novice entrant in the cut flower section, got 1st, 2nd and 3rd in one class.
9. Sandi Leith, a long-time seller of all sorts of lovelies,
10. Many of the quality entries.



Images from the Expo. Trilliums, fritillaria, leafy, Top table, winning exhibit, school entries, big crowd and the unusual looking Thanks Dennis

SIX FAVOURITE PLANTS Doreen Mear

Doreen gardens in Wanaka. She is well-known in the Society as the joint editor of the *Bulletin* for many years along with Ann Cartman. She has travelled to many exotic places exploring and searching for elusive treasures. She is an excellent photographer and has been very generous in the past sharing her knowledge and photographing plants in the wild and at our annual Shows.



I've chosen a geographical theme, and plants that I've been incredibly lucky to see growing in the wild (mostly thanks to Chris and Basak Gardner's ViraNatura flower tours). Then I look out for them in seedlists and try growing them at home – with varying degrees of success. Although I love common plants like the bluebells and primroses that grew in the woods, fields and hedgerows of northern England where I grew up, I make no apology for listing six that are rare and difficult but take your breath away!

First, a vigorous trailing plant commonly used in the median strip in Alice Springs in the hot red heart of Australia, the **Sturt Pea, *Swainsona formosa***. Picture me, crawling along the median strip photographing this plant and squeezing the pods to check for ripe seeds. No luck, so I bought up every packet on sale at the Botanic Gardens, but of the friends I passed seeds onto, only Doug Logan managed to flower it. Love the stunning colour scheme of fire engine red and a sinister shiny black eye.



From my first visit to Turkey, and my first encounter with oncocyclis irises, ***Iris iberica elegantissima***.

In my ignorance, I reasoned that if it's a roadside weed, how difficult can it be? Grown from Archibald seed, and thanks to a huge dose of beginner's luck this was my best-ever plant flowering in 2015. Pride cometh before a fall; it promptly died. Drainage, sun and eternal vigilance for pests seem to be the key.



My third choice, from my first ever plant-hunting trip back in 1998, and also a roadside weed in certain limestone areas of Wyoming, USA, the diminutive ***Aquilegia jonesii***. It is truly distinctive with minuscule glaucous blue feathery foliage and upward facing flowers. But frustratingly the seed from the seed exchanges is always something else, so I have only flowered it once, having grown every other dwarf aquilegia under the sun masquerading as *A. jonesii* along the way.



Next to Japan, and a sight to behold, scattered posies of ***Dicentra peregrina*** growing in red pumice on a bare mountaintop, imprisoned behind a rope cordon and guarded by eagle-eyed Japanese plant police in white gloves. In the local garage forecourt along with your petrol you could buy small, medium or large potfuls with a choice of white, pink or ruby red flowers to take home to the wife, so

why is it so rare and difficult in cultivation? I keep trying, but to date have only managed two or three flower spikes on both pink and white forms.



In Yunnan, China, Chris directed us to a towering limestone cliff face at the end of a long boulder-strewn valley, where clusters of a blue buttercup

Paraquilegia anemonoides, dangled impossibly from crevices way above your head. Louise Salmond exhibited this plant regularly at NZAGS shows and I bought seedlings from her several times but they quickly pined away, homesick for that windswept limestone cliff face.

And lastly, am I allowed to include one that I can't have because it's not on MPI's permitted list in case it should

become a pestilential weed? I should be so lucky! My favourite plant in all the world, a buttercup from Kyrgyzstan, ***Trollius lilacinus***.

Chris drove us to the top of the world across a barren windswept plateau on a barely-there track leading to an isolated goldmine near the Chinese border; his regular clients knew him well enough to know there must be good reason for this apparent madness! On the tops, Barskoon Lake was iced up, and there was plenty of snow still lying, but pushing up through the snow and the sodden mud were the most stunning frilly crystalline ice-blue buttercups.

There was just time for a few hasty photographs and a moment's contemplation sitting on a rock "being here now", before a ferocious blizzard blew in and we fought our way back to the vehicle, battered, half-frozen, soaked to the skin and ecstatic! Thanks, Chris!



SIX PLANTS THAT HAVE A PLACE IN MY LIFE - Gavin Bishop ONZM

Gavin and Vivien are long-time members of the NZAGS. They garden on the steep slopes of the Cashmere hills. Gavin has written and illustrated many award-winning children's books. They organise our annual garden visits around Christchurch and surrounds.

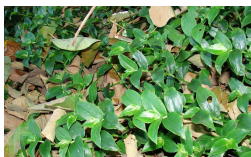


There are certain plants I associate with moments in my life.

For example, **Matagouri / Discaria Toumatou** is a hardy, spiny plant that I vividly remember from childhood. In 1951 I started school with eleven other children at Kingston Primary at the southern end of Lake Wakatipu.

Matagouri grew extensively on the flat land that I walked over on my way to school. Although the shrubs provided nectar to Korimako and Tui and attracted insects for

Piwakawaka and Silvereye I associated those plants with sheep, distressed sheep, tangled in wiry branches and clutched by small, sharp thorns.



Some years later, while still at primary school, I built a very rough plastic 'hot-house' on the front veranda of our old railway house in Clifton, just south of Invercargill. I took great delight in growing cacti and lots of pots of **Wandering Willie / Tradescantia** which was regarded as a very desirable plant to grow inside down south. Little did I know, many years later, I would be cursing the stuff as it

romped out of control through our garden in Christchurch.



Throughout the 1970s, my wife and I were into gardening in a big way. We had just moved into our first house and wanted our surroundings to be magical. We were very interested in strange plants. The weirder the better. It was exciting to learn Aotearoa had its fair share of unusual plants and many of them were for sale in the Duncan and Davies catalogue. We quickly tore out some scraggly roses to make way for a **Pukanui / Meryta sinclairii** when it arrived in the post.



And a few weeks later, I dug a big hole and filled it with dung at the base of our bay window to welcome a **Tecomanthe speciosa**, when it turned up, ready to climb along our balcony.



In 1978 I wrote my first book for children. It was about a high-country sheep called Bidibidi and it featured many of the alpine plants I was familiar with because of family holidays in Arthurs Pass. One of the plants I was particularly fond of was **Raoulia eximia / Common Vegetable Sheep**. It was so sheep-like I included it in an illustration in my book, as a character that Bidibidi liked to talk to. But my editor said my book was long, too long for a picture book, so the Vegetable Sheep had to go. That page was trimmed to reduce the number of pages.

My second book also featured a plant. And this time it was allowed to stay because without it the story would not have made sense. Mrs McGinty and the Bizarre Plant was about a lonely woman who, rather like my Auntie Barbara, liked to keep her garden 'under control'. Grass needed to be constantly trimmed and flowers, clipped and made tidy. Mrs McGinty thought she had bought a small 'cucumber seedling' but it quickly got out of hand. The plant grew taller than her house. She did not know what to do. However, because it attracted the friendship of neighbours her world improved, she was no longer lonely. The bizarre plant changed her life forever. I based Mrs McGinty's plant loosely on the **Corpse flower / titan arum / Amorphophallus titanum**, the stinkiest flower in the world.

