

# Newsletter

*For Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Inc  
To Promote, Protect, & Preserve*

*No 73, Winter 2008*

## **President's Report**

Rare and endangered native plants.

Part of the role of a Botanic Garden is to be involved in the growing and cultivation of rare and endangered plants, shrubs and trees. It is imperative that our own rare and endangered native plants are not lost forever and it is essential that we can continue to maintain, cultivate and preserve them as part of our wonderfully diverse and varied range of genera and species.

Our Botanic Gardens currently has a small collection of rare and endangered native plants and as time goes on there will no doubt be a need to expand these plantings so as to accommodate more plants which will fall into this category.

Over the next three months or so, some of the volunteers who belong to our Tuesday Propagation Group will make a start on sourcing and collecting seed and plant material of locally rare and endangered plants in order to build up a permanent collection.

The long term aim of such a collection is to be able to distribute these plants to the other botanic gardens, schools, conservation groups and the public so they can be established in the appropriate environments to ensure their survival. A good example of how some endangered plant can be made more readily available is the kaka beak (*Clianthus puniceus*), now often difficult to find in its natural habitat due to browsing by animals. But because of its ability to adapt well in most garden situations and to be grown easily from seed, it is still a relatively common plant in cultivation.

There will be many other endangered native plants that may be able to be increased by the use of skilled growing techniques or alternatively by providing them with adequately secured and protected sites to ensure their survival. A lot of time and effort will be required in the future to protect and save many of these fragile genera and species from extinction.

Don Bell

## **Editor's note**

We continue to distribute the Newsletter by email to those members who have given us their email addresses and who have not requested otherwise. If you would prefer to receive the Newsletter by mail, rather than electronically, please contact Bill Whitmore – phone 339 8356 or [billpauline@ihug.co.nz](mailto:billpauline@ihug.co.nz)

# Gardens' News

### Jeremy Hawker reports –

“Inside the Gardens Gates”, an end of year summary publication prepared by the Christchurch Botanic Garden highlighting a year of activity within the Gardens, Hagley Park and Mona Vale, has recently been produced. This publication uses many of the images from our recently updated photography collection and in turn adds to our visual library.

The usefulness of this visual record allows for their use in promotion and marketing, and tracks clearly the visual and aesthetic changes within the grounds over time. Many of our historic photo images allow us to see the Gardens as they were and give a clearer idea of the layout and planting schemes that have been in place. It is obvious that there have been some major changes within the Gardens. One example is the central rose garden which was previously a very large planting quite dissimilar to the current circular garden. Another example is the front fence where formerly there was a large hedge which obscured the view into the gardens from Rolleston Avenue.

Changes in plantings and plants are part of the dynamic of a Garden and change is constant, from growing to declining trees, to new varieties and cultivars being displayed. The Gardens through its management plan process identified several collections for enhancement and in some cases creating new displays; this is only achieved by

refreshing and rejuvenating plantings. There are several areas within the grounds being redeveloped, and recognition of the value of the existing plant collection is taken into account, with specimens being propagated or moved to suitable locations. The enhancement of collections is important in maintaining plant health, replacing those plants in decline or those that have died; in the case of roses, improving the health of the display by improving plant selections.

Tracking changes visually shows that this process has been part of the gardens history as areas are developed, and then rejuvenated or replaced. Photographs not only track changes but can show the gardens in its different moods. The International Garden photographer of the year has opened for 2009 and entry information can be found at [www.igpoty.com](http://www.igpoty.com). This year a new category has been added - “World Botanic Gardens” - with a percentage of the entry fee going to BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International) for use on plant conservation. The winning entries will be exhibited at Kew, which is in the process of building the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art. This will be the first gallery in the world dedicated to botanical art.

If you have images of the Gardens you may wish to participate, or be inclined to visit at different times of the day to capture the personality and moods of this City treasure.

### Botanic Gardens Visitors Book

Here is a further selection of comments taken from the Botanic Gardens Visitor Book

- Wonderfully maintained – a delightful experience. *USA*
- Wonderful! We'll take it with us. *Germany*
- Marvellous display. *South Australia*
- Best I've seen outstanding collection. *NSW, Australia*
- Flowerfully delicious. *Oz*
- Wish we had it! *USA*
- Christchurch is looking good. *Canada*
- I was thrilled by the huge trees, the vegetable garden, the fern house, the bonsai, tropical house!  
*NB, Canada*
- Lovely! Precioso! *Spain*
- It's amazing how much it's grown and become so beautiful. *Hornby, Christchurch*
- We have seen many beautiful gardens in our travels and yours is in the top 5 – lovely. *USA*

## Profile: The Life of Paul

### Paul Slater – Collection Curator

Anyone who visits the Botanic Gardens is sure to have strolled past the beautiful Peacock Fountain by the Worcester Boulevard entrance. While listening to the trickle of the water, you may also have noticed the stunningly kept floral beds surrounding Christ's College and the Christchurch Museum. Working behind the scenes to ensure these 'front of house' areas are kept immaculate is Collection Curator, Paul Slater.

Enjoying the outdoors from an early age, Paul has always had a strong interest in the garden. However while his career initially took him down the road to retail, it was a number of years before he pursued his real passion.

While enjoying his OE in 1988-1990 in the UK, Paul began working for Gloucester Contracting, caring for the lawns of local schools and hospitals, enjoying the feeling of working with the sun on his back and the grass at his feet. It was here, his green fingers started tingling once again.

On his return to New Zealand, after another bout in retail, Paul finally enrolled at the University of Lincoln in 2004, to study for his Diploma in Horticulture Management. The decision to finally put his foot forward and allow his hobby to become his career is one he is now very glad he chose.

"The diploma has taught me a great deal about horticulture and once I complete my final project I will be fully qualified. I'm so glad I decided to get the education behind me. A job like this requires a balanced level of both education but also work experience".

One of his lecturers at University advised Paul of a ten-week summer placement advertised at the Botanic Gardens. It was the knowledge his diploma had provided him with, that gave him the confidence to apply. The rest is history! Paul was offered the position and what was meant to last

just ten weeks has now progressed on to two and a half years!

"While I was doing the summer placement, another position became available which I applied for and luckily for me my contract was extended, then extended again!"

Caring for the bedding and flower borders such as the scarlet oak and *Ilex* borders, Paul takes great pride in helping to beautify the Gardens and to create an environment that people can enjoy.

"I really love the bedding part of my job. Every fortnight I will go through the flower borders and tidy them up. It's so rewarding when you finish and step back and look at what you have achieved."



While a great part of his job requires solo work, there are also plenty of opportunities to work with other members of the Botanic Gardens team, which he also finds an enjoyable part of the role. Twice a year a team will change over the beddings. A trainee also joins Paul every other week to help out with odd jobs.

"I'd say the only thing I don't like is having to witness the vandalism that takes place. We often have plants pulled out, items thrown in the fountain, broken bottles and damaged trees. It's really sad when we put so much time in to caring for the gardens to have a few individuals come along and ruin it all".

Paul's story is inspirational to anyone in a similar situation, with a passion for horticulture but perhaps struggling to find a way 'in'. "To those people, I would suggest going to college or university and getting the education you need to apply for these roles. Qualifications will always be a big help. If for whatever reason, that isn't an option, then just keep persevering. Try and get as much experience as you can, perhaps even apply for a trainee placement".

"It's a great job. The people here are so good to work with and you just can't beat working outdoors. I've worked indoors before and I would never be able to go back now!"

# Articles

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### Decline of the garden city

Among our diminishing gardening fraternity, there is growing concern about Christchurch the Garden City. The name is widely used: "We'll have you in Christchurch the Garden City in one hour and ten minutes," the airline pilot announces as we fly out of Palmerston North." But behind the name is a dramatically reduced garden culture and an expanding suburbia of poor or non-existent gardens. Most people don't know their plants, and only a fraction of even the best gardeners would grow their own vegetables. Today gardens focus on easy care and life-style.

The title "Garden City" has been around for more than a century, coined originally by Sir John Gorst, a special Commissioner at the 1906 International Exhibition. He remarked then that Christchurch was a garden. In 1914, Christchurch Mayor Henry Holland addressed the Beautifying Association, urging them to work until there was no doubt that Christchurch was a garden city.

Much earlier than that, we had the promising beginnings of a city of gardens. Barely 20 years after the first settlers arrived, the well-healed gents of Linwood, Opawa, St Albans and along the Avon, in their big, self-sustaining gardens managed by their loyal and excellent gardeners, formed the Canterbury Horticultural Society. When most of the city was swampy, with muddy streets and tracks, the first Horticultural Society shows for best fruit, flowers and vegetables were established, the beginnings of a fine and consistent horticultural tradition which eventually included affiliated garden clubs throughout the city.

Still and all, the face of the city generally was grubby, grim and unkempt. Factories were functional, polluting places, ugly and Dickensian. In 1907 the highly influential Beautifying Association was established with the specific aim of beautifying both public and private spaces. It applied pressure on city fathers to landscape public spaces and to support Association projects for conserving the remaining pieces of native forest and for protecting the Port Hills environment. Botanist Leonard Cockayne was their first treasurer.

The Association promoted both native and exotic flora. One of their first projects was the avenue of poplars along the riverbanks from Madras Street to Manchester, and early in the piece, the expansive daffodil planting began along the Avon and in the Botanic Gardens woodlands.

By the 1930s the Beautifying Association had set up competitions for the best street frontages, not just for private homes, but whole streets, short and long. In keeping with the factories betterment movements in England and America, factories here were enjoined to create outstanding gardens, both to uplift their workers and as places of public pride. We have two factories following that tradition today: Sanitarium\* and Couplands; and the J T Edmonds "Sure to Rise" garden has been saved from destruction.

Christchurch has had since its inception more than 500 acres of green space in its heart, one of very few cities in the world to be so fortunate. By the 1950 centennial of the city, the Christchurch Botanic Garden was heading towards its 1960s designation as one of the ten top botanic gardens in the world. It had a sizeable apprentice training programme and a big team of gardeners.

Thirty years ago, nearly 70% of New Zealand's population over the age of 30 said gardening was their number one hobby. Traditionally in New Zealand, Saturday was garden day: Dad mowed the lawn and did the vegetables out the back, and Mum did the flowers in the front. The neat appearance of the house and garden was of utmost importance and pride. Kids learned to garden at home and had their own vegetable plots supported by free seeds from the Department of Agriculture ordered through their school. They took their pets and produce to the local A&P shows. Nothing is free today, and gardening is no longer part of the primary curriculum.

\* I have just learned while writing this that Sanitarium will no longer maintain their prize-winning floral garden. This will be its last season and the end of more than 70 years of an outstanding contribution to the Garden City.

Times have changed. The culture's changed. Today's family, faced with myriad tasks on the weekend, now does its gardening in the shopping mall, harvesting its fruit and vegetables from the supermarket. At home, there's an increased likelihood that the old fruit trees, indeed half of the section, will be sold for sub-division. Or the family itself has moved to a new apartment in a block that encompasses the entire section. In many parts of Christchurch, school kids are looking for a safe place to play, and their mothers want it to be close to home.

Small community parks are also struggling because, although families need them for their kids, the community itself has neither the time nor commitment to help the Council maintain them. TV and play-station increasingly replace running, jumping and play time.

The Horticultural Society runs lively, well-attended garden classes on a weekly basis, and there are still garden shows, though not so many. Trouble is, most of those participating are middle-aged. It's the same with the garden clubs: no youngsters and lots of white hair.

In an age when botanic gardens around the world have assumed key roles in saving species and educating the public on bio-diversity and sustainability, our Botanic Gardens have no building for visiting speakers, nowhere to teach school groups, nowhere proper to house its staff, its library, its voluntary supporters.

Even more alarming, there is no Curator. The Botanic Gardens has 1.5 million visitors each year, more than the new art gallery down the road, but since the brilliant, internationally renowned Curator Dr David Given died nearly two years ago, there has been no replacement.

When I began leading garden tours in the early 1990s, I was urged not to show visitors the eastern suburbs. "Go to the northwest; that's where the best architecture and gardens are." Sorrowfully, our heritage homes in the northwest are being trucked out of their place of origin at an alarming rate, their mature trees and shrubs flattened by the bulldozer, top-soil sold off, and there's not a squeak of heritage protection from the Council. The streetscape is now dominated by high walls: everywhere they hide the gardens in order to protect investment. "Your gardeners are so mean," a

North American visitor declares. "They don't share their beauty like we do." Too true.

So what about heritage? It's a fickle term bandied about these days, rapidly losing its integrity to the mighty dollar. Recently a young friend asked the City Council for the design of the city crest to embroider her flag at an international Girl Guides conference in Canada. "We don't use the crest any more," she was told. "We use the marketing logo." Well, who officially abandoned the crest anyway?

The marketing boys, who would have us "Fresh Each Day", are keen to bypass the Garden City logo. Do they not realise what mega-millions that old name brings to this city each year? Maybe, but what they don't know is how precious a heritage label is, how long it took to create, the astonishment internationally that a small city in New Zealand should win us Garden City of the World in 1997.

Where is this city of beauty and pure tap water? It's here, but it's struggling for support. City Councillor Gail Sheriff is passionate about maintaining the Garden City, and she's recently won a hard-fought battle for the Council to allocate \$100,000 for the 'Garden City' image. Let's hope it gets into the hands of creative, honest, forward-thinking people with the big skills needed to bring us back from the brink. We've not got a good track record on promoting the Garden City, and if we don't get cracking on that, we're sunk, says Carol Anderton, garden designer and former city councillor. She's spent years sticking up for the Garden City, and she's worried and angry at its fading image.

The Beautifying Association's original aim to protect native flora within the city and on the Port Hills has been pursued with magnificent work by the City Council. Everywhere we see native plantings and reclamation of riparian strips, wetlands and the sea-shore. But this is not what I'm on about here. I am concerned, along with many others, that the garden culture of our citizens has been eroded by a fundamental change in social values: consumerism, 7-day shopping, both parents working and myriad distractions. What gets lost in that is the altruism and pride in heritage that moved people to beautify even their own small corner of the city.

To restore the Garden City, we need to offer the most beautiful public streets and gardens, and well-planned and maintained parks that meet the needs

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of this changing life-style. The backyard in the quarter-acre pavlova paradise will not return, but we can redesign our many parks in state-of-the-art, safe play and recreation spaces, a model for other cities. You don't know what you've got till it's gone, is a well-proven adage. If we lose the Garden City in all its manifestations, we lose the inspirational heart of Christchurch. And a catchword that lifts us up where we belong.

Diana Madgin

### Climate change and Botanic Gardens

Climate change is rarely out of the headlines. It threatens to be the greatest challenge that mankind has ever faced.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that the greenhouse effect that causes global warming is driven by our ever-growing use of fossil fuels, there are still some people who question whether climate change is a natural process rather than something we humans have brought upon ourselves.

The signs of climate change are hard to avoid. The Scots have found that spring is arriving almost a month earlier than it used to – their lawn mowers now have to be brought out for much of the year. So what? This is hardly the end of the world. However if we heed the predictions of British scientist Dr James Lovelock as reported in "The Press" on 22 April, we do have grounds for concern. He is sceptical of the human capacity to turn around our social-economic direction in time to avert human disaster and thinks that the global population will plummet from 9 billion in mid-century to 0.5 billion by the end. If his prediction is anywhere close to the actual outcome one wonders what is in store for our grandchildren.

Terrifying images can be useful to shock people into action, but Professor Stephen Blackmore of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh feels that the time has come to move from fear and guilt to a more constructive approach. "For a long time we were focused on trying to persuade people that climate change was actually happening" he explains. "We're beyond that now. We need answers and solutions. The question facing us now is where do we go from here?"

"A huge part of the answer is keeping a green, photosynthesising planet" Professor Blackmore continues. "Plants are not just important as the basis of the food chain but the basis of all the environmental services upon which life on Earth depends. There is a plant dimension to every sense in which ours is a living planet"

Given the fundamental connections between plants and climate, botanic gardens have an absolutely vital role to play in planning for the future. "There has been a huge shift in our understanding of what plant conservation is about" Professor Blackmore says. "For example, natural parks and reserves will not suffice if that country – or even continent – no longer has a suitable climate to support those plants. We may have to intervene and move plants around the world, planting species where they can survive rather than in the place where they evolved."

Botanic gardens have been moving plants around the world for centuries, finding out what happens when you grow the same plant in different places, and finding out how to grow plants far from their original home. The importance of horticulture can be easily overlooked in coming to terms with climate change, but these skills are of paramount importance for the future.

Botanic gardens have changed their roles already. Many of the original botanic gardens of Europe were originally physic gardens but as Western medicine developed that function became redundant. The time may have come for gardens to change their function again, this time to take up a lead role in coping with climate change.

We may have to change our thinking. For example when revegetating areas in Canterbury in native plants we are encouraged to replant using local ecotypes. However the time may come when the plants that evolved in Canterbury will no longer thrive or survive here. In order to preserve those plants it may be necessary to move them further south. And to find plants that do best here we may need to try out plants that evolved further north.

And the role of Botanic gardens may not be confined to coping with problems relating to plants. The RBGE is participating in a project focused on how the giant panda will cope with climate change. The natural habitat for the panda is in the cold steep slopes of mountains in south-west China

where bamboo flourishes beneath a canopy of pine, fir and birch. These habitats have already been reduced as a result of the relentless expansion of human habitation and agriculture.

Climate change is now compounding the pandas' problems. If the reserves in which the pandas now live can no longer support the plants they need will the pandas survive? The researchers are surveying and mapping the areas of key bamboo species. Climate data is then overlaid on the map to work out an "envelope" of climate conditions that pandas can survive in. Then using climate modeling techniques the team will predict where this "envelope" will exist in the future. Whether or not the giant pandas will be able to be moved to the new areas is another uncertain question.

Botanic gardens will have an important role in assisting society adjust to climate change.

Bill Whitmore

### Hagley Park Connection

Friends' volunteer guide Diana Madgin reports that a recent tour group included visitors Pat and Patrick Lansley, who live in Stourbridge. Close by, set in its park, is Hagley Hall.

*Editor's note. Hagley Hall was the country seat of the fourth Baron Lyttelton, chairman of the Canterbury Association which founded the Canterbury settlement in 1850. Christchurch's Hagley Park was named after Hagley Hall while the town and port of Lyttelton commemorates the family name.*

*Lord Lyttelton was a British Tory politician and was for a time Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies under Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel. Sadly he committed suicide at the age of 59 by hurling himself down the stairs at Hagley Hall!*

*His son, the fifth Baron Lyttelton inherited an additional and more prestigious title, becoming the eighth Viscount Cobham. Hagley Hall remains the country home of the Lyttelton family.*

*The connection of the fourth Baron Lyttelton was not the only Cobham and Lyttelton family link with New Zealand.*

*A less well-known link is that furnished by the Third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos (1823–89) who was also seventh Viscount Cobham. The Duke was Secretary of State for the Colonies (1867–68) in the closing years of the Maori Wars and was responsible for Sir George Grey's recall in 1868.*

*A later member of the family, Charles John Lyttelton, tenth Viscount Cobham (and seventh Baron Lyttelton) became Governor-General of New Zealand, holding the office from September 1957 to September 1962. Over this period Lord and Lady Cobham's children were educated in New Zealand. The eldest son and heir, John W. L. Lyttelton, attended Christ's College in Christchurch from 1957 to 1960. This son became the eleventh Viscount but -*

*according to the Lansleys "he died recently without issue. His second wife survives him, a round-the-world yachtswoman. The brother to the previous incumbent now holds the title and the mansion. He wants to open it more to the public."*

Diana was told that Hagley Hall is about nine miles west of the centre of Birmingham, in the Clent Hills. "There's a deer park, follies, and an attractive church" said the Lansleys. "Next door is a mews with good local crafts. It's not open daily, so check for opening times."

"The Lytteltons were 'into their cricket'", the visitors told her. "In Victorian times they played cricket in the long, ornate gallery of Hagley House, where one can see some of the damage as well as beautiful carving.

Coalbrookdale, the foundry that made the Peacock Fountain, is very close by. It has an excellent museum of the foundry. For local enquiries, contact [paddy\\_lansley@line1.net](mailto:paddy_lansley@line1.net).

## Friends' Groups

### New look for the Friends' webpage

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens is currently updating their webpage. At the same time the Friends' webpage, which is located within the Botanic Gardens webpage, has been updated. The upgrading is a continuing exercise with the Botanic Gardens planning eventually to have its own domain address, independent of the Christchurch City Council website. We will keep you informed of any future changes. In the meanwhile check out the new webpage for the Botanic Gardens ([www.ccc.govt.nz/BotanicGardens](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/BotanicGardens)) and that for the Friends ([www.ccc.govt.nz/BotanicGardens/Friends/](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/BotanicGardens/Friends/)).

One change to the Friends webpage is to create a subpage entitled "Newsletters" which contains copies of the latest and a number of earlier Newsletters. As a consequence of this the procedure for distributing each new Newsletter in electronic format has changed. Previously each new issue was emailed to recipients as an attachment to an email. Now each recipient will be notified by email that the Newsletter has been issued and invited to click on a hyperlink from which they can download a copy.

### Guiding Group report.

The numbers of visitors shown around the Botanic Gardens by volunteer Friend's guides in the programme of regular guided walks are given below. The numbers of "no-show" days (the days when a guided walk is scheduled but no visitors turn up) are also given.

	Visitors guided	"No-show" days
2005-6	552	90
2006-7	628	100
2007-8	685	100
<i>Feb-March 2008 - morning tours only:</i>		
	94	28
<i>Feb-March 2008- afternoon tours only</i>		
	222	13
<i>Extra 11 days – May 2008-05-26</i>		
	11	5

It is pleasing to record the increasing number of visitors guided around the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

When interpreting the statistics it should be noted that some adjustments have been made to the guiding schedule.

- Because it had been found in earlier years that there was very little visitor interest in tours early in the Spring, guiding was not started until mid-September in 2006, two weeks later than previously.

- There was an additional change later in that season, when it was decided to provide additional tours: during the busy tourist months of February and March 2007 the guides provided morning tours starting at 10am, as well as the regular 1.30pm regular tours.

Then in the now completed 2007-8 season a further adjustment was made; guiding was continued for an extra 11 days into early May.

While the guides would like to show as many visitors as possible around the Gardens it would be good if the number of no-show days could be minimised. It can be rather frustrating when a guide comes to the Gardens to show visitors around but none turn up – especially when it is a beautiful day and the Gardens are looking a picture!

What can the guides deduce from the figures?

- It appears that not providing guided walks in the first two weeks in September was justified with no detriment to total client numbers.

- The additional 60 morning tours in February and March 2008 resulted in 94 additional clients and another 28 no-show days. Put another way the morning guides had no one to guide on 47% of those mornings whereas the afternoon guides were disappointed on just 22% of those same days. Overall on about 42% of guiding days there were no takers but without the morning tours disappointment is reduced to about 30%. These results will lead to a good deal of discussion among the guides regarding their future policy on morning tours.

- Guiding over the first 11 days of May this year was not a great success. The unusually cold first week would not have helped. It is very unusual for the first 10 days of May to be wet or frosty but this

year they certainly were. In the first few days of May 82mm rain fell in the Botanic Gardens well above the average for the whole month. This was followed by one of the most severe early May frosts for decades (-2.3C recorded by Bob Crowder in his garden). (It is interesting that the tree dahlias in the Gardens were cut down by this frost for the first time for a long time. Contrary to what might be thought, it is more usual for them to flower in Christchurch than for them not to. When they do flower they usually reach a peak of flowering from about the 20th onwards.) Had the weather displayed the more usual experience of mists and mellow fruitfulness perhaps the number of visitors guided would have been greater. The guides may possibly decide that in future the first 11 days in May should go the same way as the first half of September.

The great preponderance of those shown around the Gardens are visitors to Christchurch. Overseas visitors come predominantly from North America and the UK. An additional point of interest is that it was the North Americans who appeared to take advantage of the morning tours.

The figures given are only for the regular daily guided walks. It should be remembered that guides also lead groups of local and overseas visitors by special arrangement.

The guides are enthusiastic and enjoy their work and are pleased that their volunteer efforts provide financial benefits for the Friends, and ultimately the Gardens. From the total of guiding activities over the last season an income of over \$5000 was generated.

Bob Crowder and Bill Whitmore

### **Civic award for Adrienne Moore**

Members of the Friends will be delighted to learn that Adrienne Moore recently received a Christchurch City Civic Award for her community services as a member of the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. The Award was made to her by the Mayor of Christchurch at a reception in the Town Hall on Monday 17 March.

Adrienne was a founder member of the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens when it was incorporated as a Society in 1989. Until her retirement from active management in 2006 she was a

Committee member almost continuously with only a brief interregnum. She served in the early years as Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Secretary and was a guide in the Gardens throughout. Adrienne was a tireless fund raiser for the Gardens and among her many services for the Friends she undertook the onerous task of organising the annual programme of Society meetings and until 2006 she produced the Quarterly Newsletter.

Adrienne has been a real friend of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and through her endeavours thoroughly deserved this Award

### **Summer plant sales**

Notwithstanding wet miserable weather on 1 March the net profit from the Festival Week plant sale amounted to \$1395.20. That figure was better than the proceeds from the spring plant sale and was a very good result considering the weather conditions. It was a credit to all members of the Friends involved in both propagating and selling plants for the benefit of the Gardens. Sales from the plant barrow outside the Information Centre over the preceding four months realised \$3994. This was another magnificent effort by those members who keep the barrow stocked regularly.

These funds will help meet the cost of the three native plants gardens which members approved at the last Annual General Meeting. Construction of those gardens is near completion and when finished will add further interest for visitors to the Botanic Gardens.

### **Request for photos**

The Friends have been asked to put on a display in the Gardens Information Centre for September and October. This is an exciting opportunity to promote the activities of the Friends, and add further interest to people visiting the Botanic Gardens. It has been decided to create a digital slide show of photographs pertaining to the gardens. The slide show will consist of various themes, including historical photographs, seasonal photographs, plants of particular interest and activities of the 'Friends'.

I would like to hear from people who may have access to photographs that may be used without breaching any copyrights. Older photographs may not be in a digital format but if they are of particular

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interest, it is possible to get them digitised. All material will be returned to their owners when they have been copied.

Charles Graham  
Committee member  
Phone (03) 348 5896  
e-mail [pipncharles@paradise.net.nz](mailto:pipncharles@paradise.net.nz)

### Call for volunteers

#### Work of Treasurer

Our very competent Treasurer for the last few years, Lesley Godkin, will unfortunately soon be leaving us. If any member of the Friends would be willing to take on this role, starting from the beginning of next year, President Don Bell (phone 343 6699) would appreciate hearing from you.

#### Serving suppers

In recent times Nancy Boundy has organised the supper provided at the end of the talks arranged by the Friends most months at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre. We have been most grateful to Nancy for her help but unfortunately she will be unable to carry on in this role. If you would be prepared to assist in serving supper please contact Ruby Coleman, phone 355 8811.

### Botanic Gardens Information Centre Display

Running from May through to July -

### Growing Famous – Plant Celebrities from Around the World Display

A celebrity plant grows in the hearts of a nation. In its leaves and flowers are pride and passion, values and hopes and strength. Its image encourages unity amongst the people it represents.

### Botanic Gardens Discovery Trail

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

### Superplant Discovery Trail

Become an invincible 'Superplant'! Find out how plants protect themselves from their enemies. To take part pick up a discovery trail flyer from the Information Centre. For children aged 5 to 12.

### Coming Events

#### October bus trip

The tentative date for an October visit to the DOC Nursery at Little River is Saturday 25 October. This is in the proximity of The Iris Garden which we shall also visit. The owner tells us that "it will be looking good around the old cottage, as will the Ponds". We hope to visit a third garden - so if anybody has a favourite place on the way back to Christchurch, please let me know. Regretfully Margaret Long's Garden is not open to us this year.

#### Christmas party

Yes, it's some way off, but note the date and the venue – from 4 to 6pm on Saturday 6 December at the Canterbury Horticultural Society, upstairs room. Christmas food, music and a surprise or two. Do plan to come and make this party a success.

Liz Wolff (313 5046 or [lizwolff@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lizwolff@xtra.co.nz) )

## Diana Madgin + Bill Willmott = Japan Garden Tour October 2008



Experienced tour guides **Diana Madgin & Bill Willmott** will be escorting this exclusive 16 day Tour from New Zealand on 5 October. Diana is a garden writer & tour guide; she writes regularly for The Christchurch Press garden page & other gardening periodicals. Bill is a retired professor specialized in Asian societies. An exciting & informative tour of gardens, landscapes and Japanese society.

For more information on this inspiring tour contact  
**Max Lucas at HRG Travel**  
Tel: **0800 747 747** or  
Email: [max.lucas@nz.hrgworldwide.com](mailto:max.lucas@nz.hrgworldwide.com)

### **Botanic Gardens Café and Function Centre – winter offer to Friends**

Over the winter months of June to August the Botanic Gardens Café offers to Friends Devonshire Tea ( tea or coffee and a scone or muffin ) at \$5.50 instead of the normal \$7.00. Just cut out this notice or bring this Newsletter.

## 12 FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS

### Contact Numbers

President	Don Bell	343-6699	Ex Officio	Jeremy Hawker	941-7580
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	Nancy Boundy	388-6345			
	Alan Morgan	343-1955			

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