

Newsletter

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

No 98, Summer 2014/15

President's Report

The new Visitor Centre is proving to be popular to the point of almost becoming dysfunctional at peak times. It has changed the dynamics of that part of the Gardens and created challenges in areas like car parking and café capacity. We have seen a burgeoning of Visitor Centre and "back office" staffing while the outside staff are being squeezed by a sinking lid funding policy of the new council.

While we can fully appreciate the Council wanting and needing funding from every possible avenue, the tendency to turn our long awaited Gardens facility into the "Commercial Hub" (as the wags are calling it) should be challenged. Is it for the benefit of the Gardens or just yet another catering/entertainment centre for Vbase ?

The changing visitor dynamics since the earthquakes is proving a challenge for our guiding teams with fewer tourists being accommodated in the city centre and thus entering the gardens via the museum gates. However we are encouraged by the number of local groups wanting arranged tours. I recently took a group from the Rolleston Garden Club for an evening tour starting at 7.00pm – stunning in the twilight. So if you know of a group looking for a great outing, call Fay Fleming 351 7798 or Pat Whitman, 384 3475 to make a booking.

Our propagation group is now well back on track since their relocation and sales are heading back to pre-quake levels. Finding an acceptable location for the new sales trolley has been a challenge, as its rustic charm is not considered appropriate near the architectural splendour of the building.

The Botanic Gardens Charitable Trust is now registered but still going through the process of getting "charitable" status for tax deductibility of donations. Work is underway on strategic planning and exploring the world of fundraising as a scientific and professional process. The public launch will be in the New Year when decisions have been made on a launching project.

It's been an exciting and challenging year for the Friends and we look forward to 2015 with much anticipation.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and a bountiful New Year.
Alan Morgan

Christmas party.

Don't forget the Friend's Christmas party to be held 2 – 4 pm on Saturday 6 December in the Old Information Centre. Members please bring a plate. There will be a quiz and a raffle.



Garden News

From Curator John Clemens

New Parks Unit

There have been exciting changes that will give much greater focus to parks management in Christchurch City Council. The former Transport and Greenspace Unit has been split and reorganised so that the "Greenspace" part, which includes the Botanic Gardens, is now a stand alone Parks Unit. Mr Andrew Rutledge recently took up his new position as Parks Unit Manager, and we look forward to working with him to enhance the reputation and performance of open spaces throughout the city.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens Trust

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens now has the benefit of a dedicated team of people who form the Trust Board of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Charitable Trust. The Botanic Gardens and the Friends are represented on the Trust Board. The Trust has been set up in accordance with the Botanic Gardens Management Plan and is there "to promote and support, primarily by raising money, significant projects in relation to the Botanic Gardens...". The Trust Board has a lot of work to do in the next few months – more news of progress in due course.

Communicating science

This year's research colloquium was held successfully in the ilex function room on 22 October with 60 people, including many Friends, attending. We listened to speakers on a range of projects to do with the Botanic Gardens, including a demystification of genetic modification, the plant sentinel network for detecting pests and diseases, *Gastrodia* orchid pollination, conserving rare exotic trees in Canterbury, and how best to communicate science. The home-made morning tea made principally by a dedicated group of the Friends (plus Curator) was very much appreciated. Thank you to Jeanette Christensen and the team.

Visitations from the past and present

The Visitor Services team, aided by staff in the grounds and behind the scenes, successfully staged a number of recent events, including

contributions to the Walking Festival (whistle stop tour of four Botanic Gardens collections) and the self-guided Spring Senses family discovery trail.

Mr Charles Adam Cleverly Cuningham (hammed by your Curator) and Mrs Annie Townend (elegantly played by Amy Johnston-Bray) made several guest appearances in their respective conservatories (or their reincarnation in the case of Townend House) on 19 October as part of Beca Heritage Week. Mr Cuningham will remember to wear a suit next time he revisits the conservatory named for him even if it is quite tropical! Local MP Nicky Wagner encountered Mr Cuningham and Mrs Townend while she was checking out the recently opened Garrick House.



MP for Christchurch Central, Nicky Wagner, chats with Mr Charles Cuningham and Mrs Annie Townend (played by John Clemens and Amy Johnston-Bray) during Beca Heritage Week.

Thanks to the organisation of Dean Pendrigh and his Canterbury contact John Roux, we were able to enjoy a wonderful talk by Ernst van Jaarsveld from the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in South Africa. His well-illustrated talk in the ilex Function Room on 13 October

was most illuminating, especially his work at Kirstenbosch on collecting endangered plants from the wild (mainly succulents) and the building of a new conservatory big enough to house a mature baobab (*Adansonia* sp.) tree transplanted from the wild. Kirstenbosch, established 100 years ago, is one of the world's great botanic gardens.

Other Visitor Services news

The new visitor centre has been very popular with locals and visitors alike and the visitor services team have been busy on a number of related projects. Amy Johnston-Bray carried out an observational visitor survey in the exhibition room and found, as we had hoped, that the children's interactive features were popular. Parents take the opportunity to read displays and watch videos while children use the microscope and the felt wall to compose pictures. We are planning a plant key interactive for the Canterbury flora display and some seating in the immersive space.

We have had a range of community events in the function room including an expo focusing on edible gardening, a floristry demonstration, and a panel discussion on using school grounds for environmental education. Summertimes and Buskers events are planned for the summer, although the summer theatre has moved to Riccarton Bush this year.

Art in the Gardens: The Cabbage Tree by Ian Lamont

The Cabbage Tree featured in a past Ellerslie Flower Show, following which it was hidden away behind the former Information Centre. Now, it is in a much more prominent position between the central rose garden and the NZ native plant section where it can be more readily appreciated.



The Cabbage Tree

Events in the Gardens

From Anna Hoetjes, Information Officer, Gardens and Heritage Parks Team, DDI 941 7595

New Year's Eve: Wednesday 31 December, 6.30pm - 12.30am, North Hagley Park

Ingham Lazy Sundays - free music in the park: 4 January - 22 February, 3 - 4.30pm.
Archery Lawn, except 11 January at St. Albans Park (corner Barbadoes St and Edward Ave).

Sunday Bandstand - free music in the park: 1 February - 29 March, 12.30 - 2pm. Central Lawn.

Sparks: Saturday 31 January, 7.30-10pm, pre-show entertainment from 5.30pm. North Hagley Park.

SCIRT World Buskers Festival: 15 - 25 January. Hagley Park.

Canterbury Horticultural Society All About Gardening Lectures:

Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 February. Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 March. Ilex Function Room, Christchurch Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre.

Articles

Musa musings

In October the guides celebrated the re-opening of the Cunningham Tropical House in the Botanic Gardens with a tour of the botanical exotica led by Greg Salton. Thanks to mysterious gardening fairies during the last three years of earthquake closure, and the passion of its gardeners, Cunningham is looking particularly fine.

Among the plants many of us didn't recognise was the familiar sight of the towering herbaceous banana in full fruit. The ripe *Musa acuminata* 'Cavendish' is a delicious treat for the staff, and we know from watching professional tennis players, it is an excellent source of potassium for sustaining energy levels.



Banana in Cuningham House.

Musa acuminata, native to Southeast Asia, South China specifically, is the most widespread wild banana species in tropical Asia. It is the main parent of the world's commercial bananas. In China this banana is to be found in every garden of note, fruiting in the south in its home territory, and offering its voluptuous foliage in traditional garden design throughout the country. The rustling sound banana leaves make in the slightest breeze, or the exaggerated sound of rain drops splatting on them during the sweltering summer confines of the traditional courtyard gardens, make it one of China's most ubiquitous garden plants.

Historically the fibrous banana leaves were as valuable as the fruit. They were used for weaving, specifically the species *M. textilis*, Manilla hemp, that was much cultivated in the Philippines but was probably originated from South China.

A few weeks ago Fiona Bruce, who fronts the Antiques Roadshow, was pictured standing beside a large stem of ripe bananas displayed in the gardens of Chatsworth House, owned by the sixth Duke of Devonshire, whose family name is Cavendish. She reported that in 1829, when Joseph Paxton was its very famous Head Gardener, he received a banana plant for Chatsworth's tropical house, where it flourished. It was named *M. cavendishii*, but later renamed *M. acuminata* (meaning 'tapering to a long narrow point').

Some years later several plants were sent from Chatsworth to Kew, and later still they were packed into Wardian cases and successfully transported to Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. In 1962 banana plants sent to Fiji were the last delivery from Kew using Wardian cases.

In her book *The Origin of Plants*, Maggie Campbell-Culver writes that another of the banana species made its first appearance in London on 10th April 1633, when Thomas Johnson, a founding member of the Apothecaries' Society, displayed a hand of

them in his window, a gift from his friend Dr Argent, President of the College of Physicians.



Banana inflorescence from 'The Origin of Plants' by Maggie Campbell-Culver

They had come from the “Bermoothes” (Bermuda) and were in all probability the Horn Plantain, *M. x paradisiaca*, which was cultivated throughout the tropics. *M. x paradisiaca* is a hybrid name (ref. *Botanicus* that covers the bananas containing genes of *M. acuminata* and *M. bulbisiana*. ‘Lady Finger’ banana is but one of the cultivars of *M. x paradisiaca*.

The name *Musa*, later confirmed by Linnaeus, commemorates Antonius Musa, physician to Emperor Augustus (63BC-AD14). The species name *paradisiaca* reflects the Arabic name for the plant, Tree of Paradise. By 1633 the word “banana” had entered the English vocabulary, the name coming from the Congo where it was the local word for the fruit.

Peter Valder in *The Garden Plants of China* suggests that it’s likely the banana has been a staple food in Southeast Asia since prehistoric times. “It was recorded in India several centuries BC, and the Greeks under Alexander

made mention of it after they had crossed the Indus in 327BC. Migrations from Southeast Asia carried it far into the Pacific before European explorers arrived; it reached Africa many centuries ago and was taken to the New World by the Portuguese in 1516.”

Thomas Johnson cut his bananas into slices after two months, when they were soft. He records that they had a pleasant taste but surprisingly had no seeds, as is the case with all the edible bananas. He had an illustrator carefully draw and engrave them for the new frontispiece of Gerard’s *Herball*.

Because bananas ripen in transit, we have an ever-present supply at our fruiterers. The sweet banana bruises very easily; one should be assertive with supermarket packers to assure that both taste and appearance are not damaged.

And contrary to the old advertising ditty, “Never never ever put bananas in the refrigerator. No no no no.” We now know that it’s ok to do so. They may look weird but inside they’re fine.

Diana Madgin

May 1920 – Edward, Prince of Wales plants a kauri tree in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

This story was prompted by Penny Martin who passed on to me papers from the Turnbull Library relating to the Prince of Wales’ visit.

Occupying a prominent position on the Archery Lawn of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, just west of the pond and sculpture fountain, is a kauri tree (*Agathis australis*). It has been growing there for 94 years. This may seem a long time but by kauri standards the tree is only a youngster; kauris grow slowly but can continue growing for thousands of years.

Kauris did not occur naturally in the South Island but, if planted, will grow perfectly well, as evidenced by the healthy specimen on the Archery Lawn. The shape of the tree is roughly cylindrical but in time this will change. Over the course of centuries kauris gradually shed their

lower branches and assume their adult form consisting of a thick, straight trunk, clear of branches up to a considerable height above which the upper branches hang down.



Kauri tree today on the Archery Lawn.

As indicated by the plaque at its base the tree was planted on 15 May 1920 by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. It was reported that it was a wet and windy day when the Prince and Lord Mountbatten arrived unannounced at the Gardens. Therefore Mr James Young, the Curator, had no time to get the spade. However the site had been prepared and gardeners had unearthed a medal, one which was issued to the children in 1901 to commemorate the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall. On the face were the representation of the Duke and Duchess and on the obverse a view of the Ophir, the vessel by which they travelled. The Prince was offered it as a memento. Without a spade the Prince remarked that it was a beautiful little tree, and it

was the most naturally planted tree ever planted.



Plaque at base of kauri tree

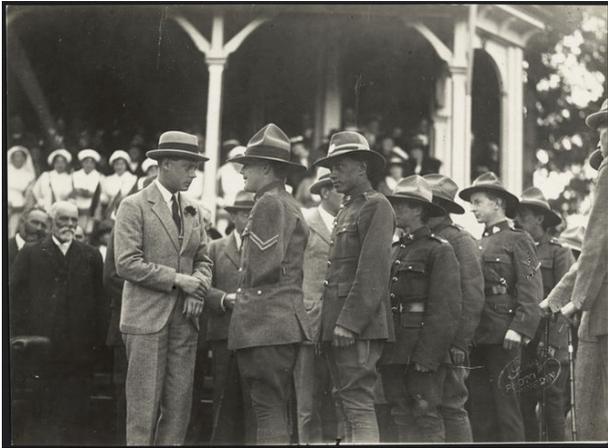
The tree was in the centre of a circular plot around which a double border of narcissus 'Queen of England' was planted. The plot is still circular but the narcissus long gone.

In the late summer of 1920, Edward, the Prince of Wales, spent four weeks in New Zealand. It was part of a long tour around the British Empire that included Canada, Australia, Fiji, Samoa and Trinidad. He was extremely popular; crowds flocked to see him. In 29 days, he visited at least 42 places, from Auckland to Invercargill, shaking hands, inspecting troops, visiting soldiers' hospitals, attending school children parades, speaking and listening at formal welcomes and farewells, watching sports events, waving from railway carriages, dancing at balls, and much more.

In 2007 the Alexander Turnbull Library acquired letters and photographs sent by Edward while he was on tour back to his lover in London, Mrs Freda Dudley Ward. He had met her in 1918 and was besotted. The long expedition away from her was very painful to him and all through his visit he was writing long letters full of expressions of how much he misses her.

Of particular interest to New Zealand are his detailed descriptions of the places he visited, the duties he performed, and the people he met. There were some things he liked, but generally he had an extremely miserable time. In one letter he wrote "It is a rotten way of seeing a fine country... Returned soldiers and shrieking crowds and school children are all I

shall remember from my visit ... though I might add drunkinos as half the men are overflowing with scotch at most of the places I've been to."



Prince of Wales greeting soldiers at Ashburton.

The Curator of Manuscripts at the Alexander Turnbull Library, David Colquhoun, commented that "these are fascinating letters. I certainly have not read anything quite like them before. They are long, detailed, lively and very frank. Of particular interest to New Zealanders are his descriptions of the places he visited, people he met and the functions he attended, all of which he described for Freda's benefit. He was frequently far less than flattering, but the letters are revealing about our adulation of royalty then, and about what passed for New Zealand high society at that time.

Among other irritations, he found many of our civic leaders unbearably pompous, bemoaned the lack of dancing ability among New Zealand women, and was embarrassed by having to wear cloaks at Maori ceremonies. But his descriptions are certainly entertaining.

He might come across as rather a self-pitying upper-class twit, but he was given a horrendous programme. To his credit, he left the impression that he was pleased to be here. It was only in these private letters that he let down his guard and said what he really thought."

There are seven letters, five written from New Zealand, one from Fiji on his way here, and one from Fiji, Samoa and Hawaii on his way back home. In all, they total 85 clearly written pages.

In addition, there are 17 photographs of his activities in New Zealand and Fiji, each annotated for Freda's benefit on the back.

The Prince and Dudley-Ward remained lovers through the 1920s. Eventually, however, the Prince's affections turned to the American divorcee Mrs Wallis Simpson. He became King in early 1936 and abdicated later that year so that he could marry her.

Further quotes from the letters

Arrival - "...Well here we are arrived in New Zealand enfin sweetheart & it's really rather a relief to feel that one has at last 'struck bed rock' as regards the object of the whole trip tho the mere thought of the programme they insist on my carrying out is staggering as we really are in for a bloody awful month angel & Christ only knows how far gone towards insanity we'll be at the end of it all when we go to Australia!!"

The welcoming crowds - "...a most marvellous welcome here in the capital of the Dominion the crowds were so dense that I had to stand up in the car the whole way!!... for once I was gratified and felt quite the cheap hero!!... we managed to keep fairly cheery despite never one hour free from returned soldiers and school children!! Christ how cadets, boy scouts and school children and their cheers and "God saves" and "God blesses" get on my nerves..." (5 May, Wellington)

Governor General Lord Liverpool - '...the Liverpools are the absolute limit beloved one; he is too hopelessly pompous & impossible for words while she is so shy that she hardly ever utters & I've given up even trying to make conversation!!' (25 April, Auckland)

'They really are too intolerable for words & besides being a ---- (4 letters!!) he's a liar and a cheat at any games: cards, golf and everything. And he's too pricelessly pompous for words. I could never tell you how much I loath him.' (8 May, Wellington)

Maori welcomes - 'Today's stunts altho terribly boring and irritating wld anyway have been a little interesting if it hadn't poured in sheets till 3.00pm. I had to go through long and tedious

Maori ceremonies at both the native villages & had to submit to being made to look the most hopeless B.F dolled up in mats & other things while inane Maories danced & made weird noises at me!! Some of the Maori women sang and danced quite nicely tho they spoilt their stunt by revolting me by kissing my hand when I shook hands with them all...' (28 April, Rotorua)

Returned servicemen - 'I inspected a huge parade of returned men territorials and cadets which took over 1 hour to do...like all these parades it left me rather a wreck as the mental strain is so great...'

The Imperial Hotel, Wanganui- 'Such a pompous address my beloved but it's really a miserable hole; no electric light & the hotel boilers elected to burst before dinner so no baths & a very nasty dinner!! But we are all rather peeved tonight as we have had a desperately twying day.... I'm frozen as there's no heating in my room & I'm sitting huddled up in an overcoat!' (4 May, Wanganui)

Dances and New Zealand woman - 'We have just returned from the most priceless funny party that one could imagine, there wasn't a single woman who had the least idea how to dance & the "squeejee band" and the floor and everything tho we stuck it out like heroes until the supper & tried to lug those wads of ham faced women around altho we were all feeling very weary and thoroughly peeved. But perhaps it's unkind to talk about these poor peoples' gallant efforts to entertain us in this way but we've been suffering under these ghastly sordid entertainments for over a fortnight now!!' (11 May, Nelson)

The West Coast - 'It hasn't all been easy this week on the W. coast as its very bolshie altho there were no incidents!! A few of the returned soldiers leaders were rather truculent sweetheart (tho. not the men themselves) & we had to be very tactful as of course the most important item of the trip are the returned men & all would be over if I got wrong with them!! Then the mayor of Christchurch is an absolute wrong un.... But then he's a socialist "of the people, by the people, for the people" & worst of all he started talking politics and was most offensive.' (14 May Christchurch)

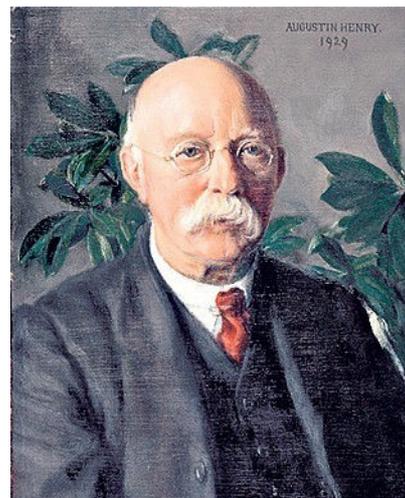
Being a royal - "... every day I long more and more to chuck this job & be out of it & free for you sweetie; the more I think of it all the more certain I am that really (tho not on the surface just yet awhile for Britishers) the day for Kings and Princes is past monarchies are out of date tho I know it's a rotten thing to say & sounds Bolshevik!!' (28 April, Rotorua)

What other stories are hiding behind the trees and plaques in our Botanic Gardens?

Bill Whitmore

Book review

In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry by Seamus O'Brien (Garden Art Press)



Augustine Henry.

A new book about Augustine Henry, a little known Irish botanist with a love of Chinese flora, inspires Val Bourne. In a recent *Telegraph* article she writes: "I learnt Latin plant names at my grandmother's knee and some of the easiest to grasp were *henryi* and *henryana*. There were lots of them, and many seemed to have fabulous foliage. *Lonicera henryi*, for instance, evergreen with long, dark green leaves handsomely arranged down each stem. The climbing *Parthenocissus henryana*, a Chinese version of Boston ivy, was another early discovery, with dark, silver-veined foliage.



Parthenocissus henryana



Lilium henryi

I assumed that these two plants had been selected by a man who loved foliage. In fact they were the tip of the iceberg when it came to Augustine Henry (1857-1930), the Irish botanist who also gave his first name to many plants.

In 1881 the young Henry, who had trained as a doctor and studied Chinese, was working as a customs officer in central and western China. His brief was to collect information about medicinal plants, but he appreciated the local flora in every form. Through his collecting he pinpointed the locations of what we now consider to be archetypal Chinese plants. But the better known plant hunters, such as Ernest "Chinese" Wilson, who came later, took all the glory.

Seamus O'Brien, the curator of Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens, near Wicklow, has spent eight years writing a book he hopes will redress the balance. In *The Footsteps of Augustine Henry* (Garden Art Press, is the first detailed account of Henry's time in China. In researching the book, O'Brien visited the Three Gorges of Hubei (formerly Hupeh) Province and Yunnan, Shanghai and Taiwan, which Henry knew so well, giving the reader a glimpse of a botanical paradise.



Rhododendron augustinii

O'Brien's first trip to Hubei in September 2002 had a special poignancy. A new dam was about to flood one of the gorges, so he did some last-minute collecting for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Glasnevin in Dublin and Kilmacurragh."

Seamus O'Brien says - "I collected a huge amount, including seeds from the dawn

redwood *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* first recorded by Henry, and the winged seeds of a rare tree, *Emmenopterys henryi*. Four weeks later the water had started to cover the lower slopes, obliterating the lower lying flora.”

In his own day, Henry collected 158,000 specimens for Kew, encouraged by Joseph Hooker, who was compiling a new flora of China. A diplomatic and modest man, Henry calmly encountered the head hunters of Taiwan, literally keeping his head when others were losing theirs.

“He was single-minded,” Seamus says. “Following the death of his wife in the 1890s from tuberculosis, he was able to devote all his spare time to studying the local flora.”

Among other feats, Henry and his team proved beyond doubt that tea, *Camellia sinensis*, was a Chinese native, after discovering huge trees more than 200 miles from the main growing areas.

At this time the handkerchief tree, *Davidia involucrata*, was the holy grail for nurserymen – James Veitch & Sons employed Ernest Wilson with the express brief of collecting it. Henry was the only Westerner who knew the location of the original tree, first described by Father Armand David (1826-1900) in 1871. He arranged to meet Ernest Wilson in South Yunnan province in 1899 to pinpoint it on Wilson’s map – only for Wilson to discover that the tree had just been felled to build a house. It wasn’t until 1901, the third year of his trip, that Wilson was able to send home seeds.

Henry himself collected a handkerchief tree: *D. involucrata* var. *vilmoriniana*, which has greyer leaves than the original. Although *D. involucrata* has always been more widely available, Henry’s tree is more likely to be found as a mature specimen in Britain, owing to its greater hardiness.

Kew, Wakehurst Place and Edinburgh, the National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin and Caerhays Castle all have good collections of plants introduced by Henry, a man in the best Ripping Yarns tradition, although sadly

overshadowed by those who followed in his footsteps”.

Earlier staff of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Thanks to Adrienne Moore who passed on to me the following citation of Morris Barnett a prominent figure in the history of the Gardens. The Canterbury Horticultural Society periodically arranges the Morris Barnett Memorial Lectures. The citation was read out at such a Lecture.

Morris John Barnett, MBE, AHRHS, AHRNZIH, NDH (NZ).
1890 - 1964

Born in Kakanui in 1890, Morris John Barnett was a man of vision and unerring judgement. He was a great horticulturalist and a sound administrator, and it was said of him in 1928 that what he did not know about the management or economy of plants was not worth knowing.

He began his career as an apprentice at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens and from there he was accepted as a student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1912, where he studied under the eminent English botanist, Dr Hill. After distinguished war service during World War I he returned to New Zealand to become Superintendent of Parks at Oamaru.

His next appointment was that of Superintendent of Parks, Reserves and Plantations to the Christchurch City Council and, in 1946, he was appointed as the Director of the Botanic Gardens, Parks and Reserves of Christchurch City, a position he held until his retirement in 1955. His love of plants and his tireless devotion to his chosen career has left a heritage of horticultural beauty of which the City will be forever proud. He established the rose species garden and commenced the formation of the *Primula* garden along the small stream that enters the Avon. Morris Barnett also co-authored a 309-page book, *Practical gardening in New Zealand*, which was published in 1934, and in the 1950’s wrote a pamphlet entitled *The value of trees in the life of a community*.

It was Morris Barnett who proposed the idea of a memorial avenue from Christchurch Airport to the city. He also planted the four lime trees in the Godley Plot of Cathedral Square and his untiring efforts saw the development of many city parks including Spreydon Domain, Avon Park, Barrington Park, Burwood Park and Victoria Park.



Morris Barnett

Morris Barnett had a great love of our own native flora. He was a foundation member of the Summit Road Society and was responsible for much of the planting on the Port Hills, particularly in and around Victoria Park. His policy of action saved for all time the stand of native plants at Kennedy's Bush.

In 1951 he was awarded an MBE. Morris Barnett was also the first New Zealander to receive the award of Associate Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain, an honour which is bestowed on fewer than one hundred persons throughout the world at any one time.

Morris Barnett was also an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

As a member of the Canterbury Horticultural Society's Management Board, he served with distinction for some 35 years. With his passing

in 1964, while President of the Society, we lost one of the Society's most dedicated friends, and the City of Christchurch lost one of its greatest citizens. Today his name continues to be remembered in Barnett Park, formerly Moncks Valley.

Recent awards from the Canterbury Horticultural Society

Neiel Drain, former head of parks and reserves in Christchurch featured in an article in this Newsletter (No 94) 12 months ago. In September 2014 the Canterbury Horticultural Society awarded to Neiel the new John Taylor Award for Leadership in Horticulture. The John Taylor Award recognises a person who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to horticulture in Christchurch and Canterbury and it is not limited to CHS members.



Neiel Drain and Elizabeth Peacock(CHS President)

Jeremy Hawker, Team Leader of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens was the recipient of another new Canterbury Horticultural Society Award, the Outstanding Horticulturist Award. The purpose of this Award is to recognise people who have displayed;

- great horticultural knowledge,
- commitment to the distribution of knowledge, and
- demonstrated horticultural practice to a wider audience

Contact Numbers

Committee

President	Alan Morgan	384 9976
Treasurer	Dot Noordijk	386 0595
Secretary	Roy Sinclair	337 6926
Membership	Penny Martin	332 6866
Other Committee Members	Charles Graham	348 5896
	Don Bell	343 6699
	Leith McMurray	337 2008
	Jean Gluyas	384-2989
Ex Officio, Curator	John Clemens	941-7589

Other Contacts

Plant Propagation	Neil O'Brien	384-6090
Newsletter Editor	Bill Whitmore	339-8356
Newsletter formatting	Maria Adamski	
Guides Co-ordinator	Faye Fleming	351-7798
Group guided walks:	Pat Whitman	384 3475

Gardens enquiries *Information Centre 941-6840 x 7590*

Enquiries about membership should be made to Penny Martin 332-6866 Graememartin1@xtra.co.nz

Friends' website

Have you visited the Friends' website? The address is <http://www.friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz/>

Distribution of Newsletter

We 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 Penny Martin – phone 332 6866 or email graememartin1@xtra.co.nz

Friends of Christchurch Botanic Gardens Inc
PO Box 2553 Christchurch
or friendsofthegardens@gmail.com

Website - <http://www.friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz/>