



President's Report

Since our last Newsletter our home has had a new injection of life with my nine-year-old grandson arriving to live with us for two school terms. He has initiated and travelled from Switzerland by himself, is a very independent lad and Dave and I are thoroughly enjoying the experience.

The Friends Christmas party in December was once again attended by fifty Friends and we all enjoyed Wolfgang's very interesting presentation about his life before New Zealand.

We have a great line-up of speakers for you this year so we hope to see many of you at these events. Checkout the Coming Events page with this and mark the dates on your calendar.

During January and February the Guides, Growing Friends, Hub volunteers and Gardening Friends have been busy supporting the Gardens as ambassadors, raising funds or with practical help. We would very much like to grow our membership as there will be many opportunities coming up under Wolfgang's directorship. You can help by encouraging your friends to join our team.

Your Committee has continued to be very busy. In particular we have had a temporary move out of the Old Information Centre to the Visitors Centre for the Horticultural Hub and our public talks and Friends meetings until we can occupy a space in the Kiosk building with the Canterbury Horticultural Society.



Veronica laudiana

Banks Peninsula
Sun Hebe

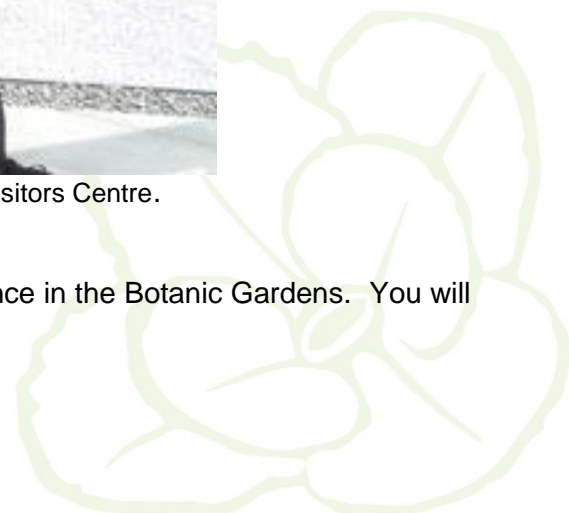
Endemic to
Banks Peninsula,
Christchurch.

newsletter



FCBG volunteer Claire manning the Hub in the Visitors Centre.

This is a very exciting time with Horticultural Groups having a presence in the Botanic Gardens. You will be kept informed with progress as we make these changes.



I was over at Mona Vale today chatting with Tori Taylor, one of the Garden's trainees. As with the Botanic Gardens, Mona Vale is looking stunning and Tori just loves working there for a period in her training. She invited me to "come and see the Hot Border it is looking great at the moment".



Tori Taylor (trainee) beside the hot border at Mona Vale

In the photo above you can see this beautiful patch of Mona Vale. Standout plants were the variegated elderflower, the large heads of pineapple sage and the carefully twined *Berberis*, that added structure. Perennials chosen to fit the wonderful colour pallet surround these specimens.

A backdrop to this bright and cheerful border is the historic bathhouse. When Annie Townend bought the estate in the early 1900s she called it Mona Vale after her mother's Tasmanian home and added the gatehouse, bathhouse and fernery along with many of the fine tree specimens. Unfortunately the bathhouse has not yet been repaired after the earthquake so is not open to the public.

If you haven't been to Mona Vale for a while I urge you to pay a visit and admire the work of Nicky Brown and her team.

Once again a big thank you to all our volunteers and Garden staff for the continued hard work in maintaining the high standards of our piece of paradise.

Jeanette



Articles

The Woodland and the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society

Every spring the daffodils that flower in the Woodland area of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens attract locals and those visiting the city in their thousands. The area is one of the most popular spring time attractions in New Zealand. And the daffodils are not the only attraction in the Woodland – there is the primula walk, the Heritage Rose Garden and of course always the towering oak and ash trees.



Daffodils in the Woodland

150 years ago the area was very different; the public were flocking to the area to see a very different attraction. They came to see an

assortment of different and unusual animals and birds in an area that many people called “the Zoo”.

How did “the Zoo” become established? When considering this question it is perhaps relevant to consider how the early Canterbury settlers – that is the pakeha settlers – felt about the natural world of their new home. The following comment appeared in the Lyttelton Times of 18 February 1864:

“The first feeling that strikes everyone on coming to New Zealand is its intense want of animal life. Mountains, plains, rivers, – mere features without a soul; for you can hardly dignify the miserable ground lark, the wailing weka, or the ghoullike eel with such a title.”

In April 1864 the movers and shakers of the young settlement attended a public meeting held at the Christchurch Town Hall. It was presided over by the Provincial Superintendent Samuel Bealey, who called on Frederick Weld to move the resolution that “a Society should be formed called the Canterbury Horticultural and Acclimatisation Society”. The motion was seconded by Mark Stoddard and carried - as well as a further motion to ask the Provincial Government to give, for the Society's disposal, the Government Domain and part of Hagley Park near the Hospital. The Society was formally constituted on 25 April 1864, with Superintendent Bealey its first Patron and Weld its first President. Vice-presidents were the Venerable Archdeacon Matthias (a prime introducer of gorse), Sir John Cracroft Wilson (an importer of pedigree sheep), Dr Julius Haast, W T L Travers (who exported New Zealand flora to England) and T H Potts (who imported azaleas and rhododendrons to this country).

In May that year the Provincial Government granted the Society the use of 1.5 hectares of ground in the Botanic Gardens between the Avon River and Christchurch Public Hospital.

Once it had obtained the necessary wire-netting from England, the Society constructed enclosures for the many birds and animals bought or gifted to them. The formation of the grounds and the initial planting of trees in this area was under the supervision of Enoch Barker, the Provincial Government Gardener.

In order to meet the growing need for accommodation in 1866, the Provincial Government placed at the Society's disposal another enclosure of four hectares.

During the years the Society leased the grounds, the public were able to view many different and unusual birds and animals which were either bred for liberation throughout Canterbury or imported for public enjoyment. Creatures included silkworms, deer, ferrets, kangaroos, angora and Cashmere goats, opossums, monkeys, wallabies, llamas, a lemur, a tortoise, a Californian bear, and an emu called Jack.. Jack was at one time joined by several other emus who produced eggs which were sold for ten shillings each.

The aviaries housed pigeons, doves, pheasants, Canadian geese, partridges, blackbirds, thrushes, linnets, skylarks, chaffinches, goldfinches, starlings, hedge sparrows, redpolls, bramble finches, rooks and kiwis. A curator was employed to tend the grounds, birds and animals with a cottage being built for him on the site.

In 1866 the Society split into the Acclimatisation Society and the Canterbury Horticultural Society. In the following year fish breeding ponds and ova boxes were constructed and artesian wells were sunk affording an abundant supply of water.

In the years that followed the Acclimatisation Society proved itself to be a vigorous and innovative organisation, involving itself wholeheartedly in the introduction of trout, salmon, small birds, pheasants, hares and rabbits.

Several species of trout and salmon were imported to be bred for liberation into Canterbury rivers and lakes. The first trout ova arrived from the Tasmanian Royal Society in 1867, the salmon ova arriving from England in 1868.

Because of the scarcity of water races available to the Society and the difficulty of procuring sufficient food for the fish, it became necessary shortly after hatching out, to liberate the fish into the rivers of the province. Liberation began in 1869 and the first river to receive them was the Avon, naturally so, as it ran past the Society's grounds.

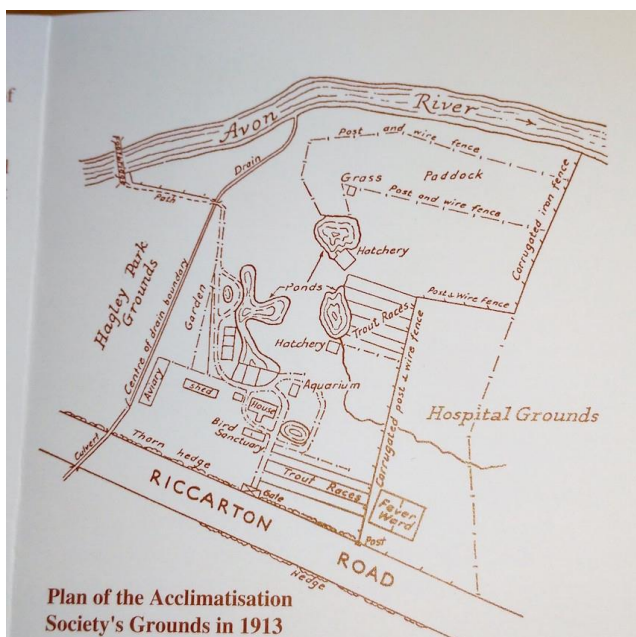
Several water races were installed as nurseries for young fish and by 1888 the fish breeding ponds numbered 16 in total.

Fish bred in these ponds included many species of trout and salmon, goldfish, perch, tench and American lake char.

By 1882 the Society's fish breeding ponds and hatcheries yielded an output of over 55,000 trout and had stocked every stream and lake in Canterbury and sent large numbers of fish and ova to the North Island.

In 1885, after many attempts that failed, the Society succeeded in importing and acclimatising bumblebees, to the benefit of all the farmers of New Zealand.

In 1897 the Society imported red deer from Stoke Park, Buckinghamshire and liberated them in the Rakaia Gorge: these were the ancestors of the famous Rakaia deer herd.



Plan of the Acclimatisation Society's grounds in 1913

By 1918 the Society had built a new fish hatchery, considered the most advanced of its type in the Dominion, and in 1917 brown trout ova were sold. In addition to this 20,000 rainbow trout fry were taken from the hatchery and distributed in Lakes Pearson and Hawdon.

In 1922 the North Canterbury Hospital Board needed to erect a Nurses' home and did so on the Society's horse paddock. By this time the Society was having problems of its own; the Domains Board becoming increasingly worried that the fish ponds were causing waterlogging around surrounding trees.

In 1928 the Society decide to vacate the grounds and in 1930 moved to their present site in Greenpark.

All the remains today of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society grounds - and it takes



Plaque in Woodland to commemorate the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society grounds.

some finding - is a small commemorative plaque behind a moss-encrusted artesian-fed drinking fountain to the north of the Primula Garden.

Bill Whitmore

Weather Notes summer 2018-19.

It is raining as I write this on Sunday 24th February so it is unlikely now that February will be the driest on my record at 3.2 mm and probably not the hottest on my record with a mean maximum after three weeks of 24.1 C exactly the same as for this January and just short of the warmest February on my record of 24.0 C as recently as 2016. It has however been an excellent summer for all concerned, coming after one of the wettest years on record the warm conditions spurred prodigious growth with little need for supplementary irrigation until well into late January and February.

Up to Christmas the season had been a bit disappointing with below average day temperatures and sunshine but warmer than average night temperatures and above average rainfall had all conspired to create massive growth. Christmas saw the change and it dried up for most but along the suburbs close to the hills a heavy fall of rain on the 13-14th of 40 mm gave a moderate flood in the Heathcote River and a good soil moisture top-up for the soils ready for the heat to come. Out at the airport this rainfall was much less with a month total of just 31.0mm compared to this site with 57.2 mm well above the average of 44.0 mm.

January was not as hot overall as 2018 but the mean maximum was a near new record for this site at 24.1 C and hotter than 2018 at 23.5 C. It just failed to exceed the record of 24.2 C recorded in 1986. The mean for the month was less than 2018 (19.6 C) at 19.2 C which is the second highest on record.

February continued the run of high temperatures for the first three weeks with very dry conditions and out on the farm an excellent onion harvest was fully gathered in before the arrival of the “ka-boom” threatened in the Christchurch Press of Tuesday 19 February.

In summary therefore an excellent summer growing season to date, very close to average summer rainfall following a wet year, 144.5 mm (av. 138.2 mm) and sunshine to date 601.5 hrs (av.598 hrs).

Bob Crowder

The Test

One of the guides in the Botanic Gardens was waiting for customers for the daily 90-minute tour and three arrived; a couple from Britain and an 81 year-old woman from Arizona. The walk

began and the guide asked if the three visitors knew what the unusual noise was. The couple volunteered that maybe it was cicadas but they said they knew little about them. The guide turned to the 81 year-old and she said “Well. You tell them what you know and I will tell you what I know.” That sounded like a test of the guide’s knowledge. The guide described the life cycle, habits and characteristics of cicadas and turned to the Arizonan and said, “How was that?” The 81 year-old modestly said that she was an entomologist whose special study was cicadas and that the guide had, “Got it right!” The 81 year-old had written papers on cicadas for respected science journals.

The moral of this story is that our Botanic Garden guides need to carefully find out some of what their guests know before they begin their walk so they can “pass the test!

Neil Fleming



Friends News

The Friends Nursery:

The Friends Nursery was established during October / November 1991 with the erection and equipping of a glasshouse for propagation purposes. The Friends Committee at that time requested the late Max Visch, a retired secondary school teacher and keen amateur botanist, to supervise the use of the glasshouse. The original nursery site was situated near the old Botanic Gardens nursery area and adjacent to the western boundary of the Christ’s College sports ground and remained on this site until the development of the Visitors Centre building in 2012/14. The Friends Nursery was then relocated to the southeast corner of the Gardens adjacent to the Public Hospital during 2013.

The main purposes of the Nursery is to help teach Friends volunteers the skills of propagating, learning the common and botanical names of plants, become familiar with identifying plants and methods used to grow young plants. The other purpose is to provide a way of raising funds for the Friends. The fundraising efforts involve organising two public plant sales a year

(autumn and spring) as well operating our seven days a week plant stall which is located in front of the old information centre. The cost of our plants (\$5 per plant) also provides and encourages the public with an opportunity to create a low cost garden or expand the plantings of an existing garden.



Plant sale 1997 with Max Visch on the left.

Propagation policy

The general policy for many years has been to propagate a wide range of plants. Wherever possible propagation material is obtained from the Botanic Gardens. The overall aim due to changing plant fads is to propagate small quantities of all plants e.g. 10-20 cuttings of any one plant with a few of exceptions. Hydrangeas for example continue to be popular with about a 100 plus plants grown each year whereas ornamental conifers have gone right out of favour over the last ten years or so. Most of our native plants, trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennial plants continue to be popular and especially many of those sold in flower.

Due to the increase in sales (approximately 2,830 sold in 2018) and over the last five or more years it has been necessary from time to time to buy small rooted tree and shrub plants from a South Island commercial nursery to keep up with the demand of our plant sales.

There are two volunteer groups of 'growing Friends' that work throughout most weeks of the year. The Tuesday morning group currently comprise of seven volunteers who concentrate on propagating and growing trees, shrubs, native plants and succulents. On Thursday afternoons the second group of about eight volunteers are mainly involved with propagating herbaceous perennial plants, succulents and some of the more uncommon plants plus a few different types of bulbs.

The Friends autumn plant sale will be on Sunday the 5th of May commencing at 11am to 3-30 pm.

Don Bell
Friends Nursery Co-ordinator

Friends library grant

Dear Friends, once again the Gardens staff, Friends and volunteers have enjoyed another year benefitting from your generous annual grant of \$1,200 to the Gardens library. For those of you who don't already know, this grant dates back to at least 2005, or I should say that is as far as my catalogue of Friends grants goes but they may well pre-date this. So come on in and have a look at these gorgeous works and remember we are open seven days! I have listed the 2017/2018 accessions. Enjoy!

The Book of Seeds – A Life Size Guide to Six Hundred Species from around the World. Consultant Editor Paul Smith 2018.

- Gardening Women; their Stories from 1600 to the Present / Catherine.* Harwood. 2010.
- James Hector – Explorer, Scientist, Leader /* Simon Nathan 2015
- Flora – An Artistic Voyage through the World of Plants.* Sandra Knapp. 2014.
- The Art of Natural History – Illustrated Treatises and Botanical Paintings, 1400 – 1850.* Edited by Therese O'Malley and Amy R. W. Meyers. 2010.
- Charles Darwin, The Voyage of the Beagle – An Illustrated Edition of Charles Darwin's travel memoir and field journal.* Charles Darwin, Published 2015
- Joseph Bank's Florilegium, Botanical Treasures from Cook's First Voyage.* Mel Gooding, David Maberley, Joe Studholme. 2017
- The Botanical Treasury - Celebrating 40 of the World's Most Fascinating Plants through Rare Prints and Classic Texts.* Curated by Christopher Mills. 2016.
- Topiary, Knots and Parterres.* Caroline Foley. 2017
- Revision of Geranium (Geraniaceae) in the Western and Central Pacific Area.* Carlos Aedo. 2017.
- Working with Nature In Aotearoa New Zealand.* Friederike Gesing. 2015.
- John and Charles Enys, Castle Hill Runholders 1864 – 1891.* Jenny Abrahamson. 2017.
- The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand.* Barrie Heather & Hugh Robertson. 2015.
- The Bee Friendly Garden.* Doug Purdie. 2016.
- Flora Magnifica – The Art of Flowers in Four Seasons.* Makoto Azuma & Shunsuke Shinoki. 2018.
- Place Names of Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills / Gordon Ogilvie* 2017
- Emily Dickinson Herbarium.* Edizione Facsimile. 2007.
- Plants: Healers and Killers.* Michael Radcliffe Lee. 2015.
- Flore Insularum Novae Zelandiae Precursor – or A Specimen of the Botany of the Islands of New Zealand.* Allan Cunningham. Facsimile compiled 2017.
- The Genus Meconopsis – Blue Poppies and their Relatives.* Christopher Grey-Wilson. 2014.

Sue Molloy
Botanical Resources Coordinator

Training the Guides.

Each month the Guides gather for their professional development session and we use a variety of speakers including the section curators in the Botanic Gardens, the guides themselves

sharing strategies and some resources that we have used in previous training programmes. Each month we are planning a quiz similar to the one below (based on a letter of the alphabet) as well as a visit to a section curator's section in the gardens for an update on his/her future plans,

current projects and aspects that we the guides should add to our information for our visitors. Here is the February quiz "celebrating the letter "A". Don't expect that every Guide got them all correct. They are meant to stretch even our most knowledgeable guides.

GUIDES' QUIZ – (N and F Fleming) – 4 February 2019

All answers begin with the letter "A"

1	A member of the <i>Malus</i> family.	Apple.
2	Father and son curators at Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Both names please.	John and Joseph Armstrong
3	A "royal" associated with a visit to the CBG in 1869.	Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh.
4	Two lawns.	Archery and Armstrong.
5	A collection of hives, trees and birds. (Three answers please.)	Apiary, Arboretum, Aviary.
6	Lady's mantle.	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i> .
7	The horse chestnut and buckeye wheat family.	<i>Aesculus</i> .
8	The CBG dawn redwoods came from a nursery in the USA named, <i>The XXXXXX</i> .	Arnold.
9	A Mediterranean herb associated but not quite the same as fennel and liquorice.	Aniseed.
10	A <i>globe</i> variety of thistle.	Artichoke.
11	The blue source of tequila.	<i>Agave</i> .
12	The <i>proper</i> name for <i>Granny Bonnets</i> .	<i>Aquilegia</i> .
13	A deciduous tree in the family that make syrup.	<i>Acer</i> .
14	Two trees and a shrub each with a Z in their name. (Three answers please.)	<i>Azara, Acer, Zelkova, and Albizia</i> .
15	The family of bunya bunya, kauri and wollemi.	<i>Araucaria</i> .
16	A special CBG tree planted in 1863 and named after another 19 th century "Royal".	Albert Edward Oak.
17	Onions.	Alliums.
18	Decorative flowers and aromatic roots commonly known as <i>great masterwort</i> or <i>masterwort</i> .	<i>Astrantia</i> .
19	A genus named after a French flower-painter Claude Aubreil.	<i>Aubretia</i> .
20	A flowering shrub in the Mallow family.	<i>Abutilon</i> .
21	Correctly spell the word for a genus of <i>dragon</i> flowers.	<i>Antirrhinum</i> .
22	Gracie Fields sang a song titled, <i>The Biggest ???? in The World</i> .	<i>Aspidistra</i> .
23	Can you turn these jumbled words into a flower ATLBLESI	<i>Astillbe</i> .
24	The latest fashion to have for brunch squashed on toast with lemon added.	Avocado.
25	The fruit of this tree is a drupe consisting of an outer hull and a hard shell with the seed (nut) inside.	Almond.



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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

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