

Newsletter

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

No 99, Autumn 2015

President's Report

I guess we all knew that the earthquakes would impose a huge financial burden on the city and now we are finding out the consequences of that. The proposed rates hikes are scary enough but we have yet to find out what cuts might yet be made to expenditure. So far the Botanic Gardens have been told that their funding will be cut by 2% per annum for each of the next three years but there is another review currently in progress. We have been told that any staff leaving will not be replaced and the effects of that are already beginning to show.

As Friends we should well be asking "What can we do to help?" We already have volunteer guides and propagating teams providing services and fund-raising but there are several other opportunities arising for volunteer groups. One need is advertised later in this issue for helpers in the upcoming school holiday programme. It would be great to have a group – just a list of names – of folk who could be called upon to help out on such occasions. The possibilities for volunteering with the gardens staff is always open and the need is growing. It will be fun and such a beautiful workplace!

The newly formed Botanic Gardens Trust, initiated by the Friends committee, is working through setting-up processes including a Memorandum of Understanding with the City Council. One of the staunch provisions is that funds raised will not be used to replace operational expenditure previously provided by the Council. It will be focussing on capital projects such as the Gondwana Garden, Children's Garden, with the pedestrian bridge to the Visitor Centre the likely first off the block. Meantime the trustees are learning much about the highly organised and sophisticated world of professional fundraising that we are about to join.

The Friends committee has recently provided funding for improvements to the interpretive section in the Visitor Centre and for a staff member to attend a University of Canterbury field study week at Cass. We are encouraging more interpretation and improved labelling out in the Gardens where the stories are – particularly those of our own city. For example we have seven endemic plant species within our city boundary – that is they don't occur naturally anywhere else in the world. How many cities in the world can claim that? And how many of us know that?

The numbers for our daily guiding are steadily improving as more tourists arrive at the front gates and we have an increasing number of local groups enjoying guided tours. If you know of a group that would like an interesting outing call Faye 351-7798 or Pat 384-3475. Watch too for the short specialist walks on Sunday afternoons – they are advised in the Press and are proving very popular.

I look forward to seeing you soon at one of the upcoming events.

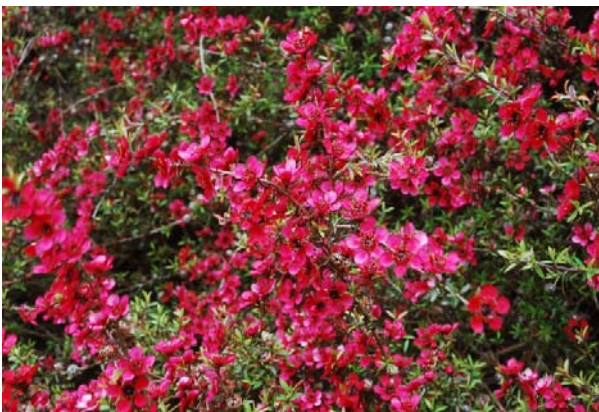
Alan Morgan

Garden News

From Curator John Clemens

The meaning of life (for a botanic garden)

From time to time I am asked why we have botanic gardens. What is their purpose? What is the mission upon which they embark? In short: What is their meaning in life? Now that's a good question, especially as we review how best to deliver what's needed with limited resources.



Why do we have botanic gardens? Answer 1: to enjoy the displays of plants. This is a possible *Leptospermum scoparium* 'Nichollsii' growing in England.

Taking out one of my old text books I see that the mission of a business is the same as its purpose. Whether you distinguish an organisation's mission from its purpose or not, they both provide focus. The mission defines, particularly for staff, what the organisation is (and isn't), whereas purpose is more fundamental: Why does the organisation exist from the perspective of its customer?

We have probably all read the catch-all definition of what is said to be the purpose of a botanic garden: "...documented collections of living plants for the purposes of display, education, conservation, and scientific research". As we can see, however, there is no mention of the customer or the public, and while there is certainly focus, there is little inspiration!

How do other botanic gardens define why they exist? The answers – described as purpose, or

sometimes mission – are diverse. Some of my favourites are:

- Connecting people and plants... (Singapore)
- ...exploring and explaining the world of plants for a better future (Edinburgh)
- ...[To] cultivate the power of plants to sustain and enrich life (Chicago)
- To discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life... (Missouri)

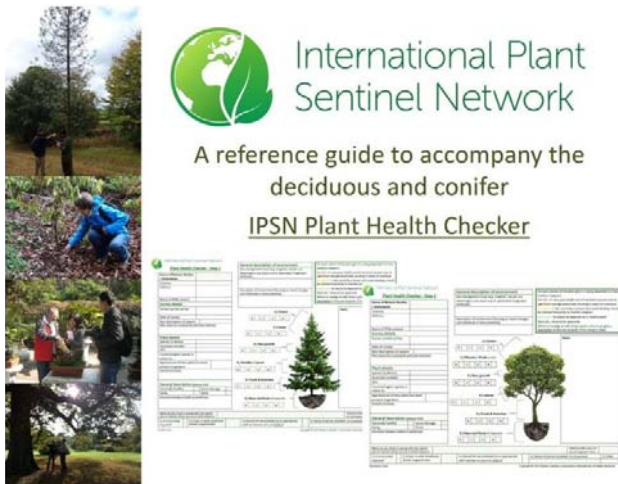
Somewhere in there are the elements of a great "meaning of life" mission statement for our Botanic Gardens: giving visitors an experience that will make a difference to their lives, help them understand the importance of plants, and enrich life for the future.

Plants on guard

As we contemplate the effects and implications of the recent Queensland fruit fly incursion in Auckland, it is timely to consider how botanic gardens can contribute to border biosecurity. Our Botanic Gardens and Auckland Botanic Garden are part of the world's International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN). As other institutions join, a national network of botanical collections will be formed, primed to give early warning of pests and diseases affecting plants from around the world. Likewise, botanic gardens growing New Zealand plants in other countries can warn us about possible problems affecting our native species.

The European coordinator of the IPSN has released draft "Plant Health Checker" sheets for assessing trees in collections. Several New Zealand botanic gardens have the forms to trial. Step 1 of the assessment process can be carried out by an inexperienced (but keen and conscientious) observer, who makes an initial assessment of a plant's health. In Step 2, a more detailed assessment is made by someone with "a reasonably good knowledge regarding plant pests and pathogens". If there are

readers in the latter category, your botanic garden might well need you!



Assessment sheets from the International Plant Sentinel Network to trial.

You might remember we were the location of an intense study of aphids and pine trees undertaken by a University of Canterbury summer student supervised by Scion and other staff as part of the Better Border Biosecurity (B3) initiative. More recently, samples of North American plants growing in the Botanic Gardens have been taken for testing by B3 collaborators. They will see if they can detect a bacterium that could affect selected crop and

native species, should an effective vector arrive in Canterbury.

Cricketers also take guard!

This month the Botanic Gardens has been on the Fan Trail for those on their way between the city Fan Zone and Hagley Oval for ICC Cricket World Cup action. Cricket is not everyone's cup of tea, but I do hope the fans appreciated the stately, leafy landscape they passed through. Parks Unit including Botanic Gardens staff prepared the Hadlee Lawn display on the Archery Lawn for the occasion.



The Hadlee Lawn temporary display erected on the Archery Lawn on the route of the ICC Cricket World Cup Fan Trail.

Events in the Gardens

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

Autumn Kids Trail. During the Easter school holidays the popular Botanic Gardens kids trail returns. Pick up your trail booklet from the Visitor Centre and let the fun will begin!
Saturday 4 April - Sunday 19 April.

Autumn Leaves School Holiday Programme. Create leaf art, take home prints and a sun catcher. \$2 for a half hour interactive session. Suitable for 4-12 year olds. In the old Information Centre at the Botanic Gardens.
Tuesday 14 - Saturday 19 April, 10am - 2pm.

Matariki

Keep an eye out for a Matariki celebration in late June!

Articles

Plant explorer Augustine Henry

The last Newsletter (No 98) featured a book review – “In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry” by Seamus O’Brien. Further information about this noted plant explorer comes from Diana Madgin.

Augustine Henry was a polymath, a physician and a dendrologist among other interests. He had a brilliant career at Belfast University followed by qualifying as a doctor at Edinburgh. He disliked medical practice but was well qualified for a vacancy in the Chinese Customs service, which advertised in 1881 for “a well-educated man with some knowledge of medicine”.



Augustine Henry

Since the end of the 18th century, the British had been trading opium for tea, by now the most popular beverage of all classes in Britain. It was a heinously criminal deal. In 1839, the Emperor, worried by widespread use of opium, sent his Commissioner Lin Zexu to Guangzhou (Canton), where he raided the British warehouses packed to the gunnels with opium, and burned it. The British, in true colonial outrage, declared this to be an attack on the Christian principles of private property and free trade. They declared war against China, which they won resoundingly. The consequent

Treaty of Nanking of 1842 was the first of the unequal treaties from which the British (and later the international community) extracted much more than their pound of flesh: Hong Kong in perpetuity, five more treaty ports opened to trade including Shanghai, extraterritorial rights (British not subject to Chinese law in China!), and a hefty war indemnity of 21 million silver dollars, for which the British took over the Chinese imperial customs, collecting the duties to assure this debt.

This was the situation that provided Henry with his career in China. He was posted to the newly opened treaty port at Yichang on the Yangtze River as customs and medical officer. Yichang is where one boards the up-river steamers to travel through the Yangtze gorges. (It's also the city whence, in 1904, the first Chinese gooseberry, *Actinidia deliciosa*, came to New Zealand via a New Zealand Presbyterian missionary's sister, Isobel Fraser; she had been given the seed by Ernest Wilson.)

It seems that Henry's boredom led him to collect some interesting plants in his spare time, and he sent them to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew for identification. He had only the local Chinese names. Kew offered him advice about how to go about collecting and preparing specimens and urged him to do more. In all, Henry sent 158,000 dried and labelled specimens to the botanists at both Kew and Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, hundreds of them new to science. He sent only a small quantity of viable seed.

Augustine Henry was an enthusiastic, patient, and hardworking man, and eventually he became one of the greatest authorities on plants in Western China. He spoke Chinese fluently and earned himself the highly respected rank of Mandarin.

From Yichang, Henry was posted to Simao in Yunnan on the Burmese border. It was here he got to know the local Yi tribes-people and

compiled a dictionary of their language. Here, too, his interest in zoology was rewarded with the discovery of a new kind of antelope. Most famously, it was this remote posting that Ernest Wilson had to find, coming up the Red River from Vietnam in 1899, to consult Henry on the whereabouts of the dove tree, *Davidia involucrata*. Fr. Armand David had described it first, and later Henry found one tree only in the hinterland of Yichang. Eventually, Henry's notebook-sized sketch of an area the size of Great Britain led Wilson to what Henry had described as "a dogwood tree, fifty feet in height, literally covered with a flock of small white doves hovering amid its branches."

During the twenty years he spent in China, Henry came home only once, in 1889, and during that leave, he took the opportunity of being called to the Bar, becoming a member of the Middle Temple. After his final return to Britain in 1900, he was appointed the first Reader in Forestry at Cambridge, after which he became Professor of Forestry at Dublin College of Science. In 1929 Augustine Henry and George Forrest published a seven-volume work, *The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*.

Augustine Henry died in 1930, the same year as Ernest Wilson was killed in a car accident. George Forrest died two years later of a heart attack.

Unusual number of UK flowers bloom



Botanists have been stunned by the results of their annual hunt for plants in flower on New Year's Day. They say according to textbooks there should be between 20 and 30 species in flower. This year there were 368 in bloom.

It raises further questions about the effects of climate change during the UK's warmest year on record.

"This is extraordinary," said Tim Rich, who started the New Year's plant hunt for the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. "Fifty years ago people looking for plants in flower at the start of the year found 20 species. This year the total has amazed us – we are stunned."

"During the holiday I drove along the A34 south of Newbury and saw half a mile of gorse in flower when gorse is supposed to flower in April and May. It's bizarre." "We are now in our fourth mild winter. Normally flowers get frosted off by Christmas but this year it hasn't happened."

He said 368 species in flower is an unprecedented 15% of the flowering plants in Britain and Ireland – an "amazing" total. The high count was partly due to the growth in the number of volunteers - but mostly due to climate change, he said.

Dr Rich said it was possible that plants in unseasonal flower might be badly hit if February brought very cold weather.

The Met Office has confirmed 2014 as the warmest year on UK record, with the wettest winter and the hottest Halloween. It is also the warmest year in the Met Office's Central England Temperature series, which dates to 1659. Their blog said: "Human influence on the climate is likely to have substantially increased the chance of breaking the UK and CET temperature records. Estimates from the Met Office suggest that it has become about 10 times more likely for the UK record to be broken as a result of human influence on the climate."

The most commonly recorded plants in flower were daisy and dandelion, each of which was recorded in 115 lists (75%).

The mild south and west of Britain had the highest numbers of species still in flower, but there were 50 species identified in the east and north of England, and 39 species flowering in Edinburgh. In absolute numbers, Cardiff won with 71 species in flower and Cornwall came

second with 70 species in flower. Ryan Clark, who co-ordinated the New Year Plant Hunt, said: "It was astonishing to see so many records flooding in, from Guernsey to the Moray Firth and Norfolk to Donegal.

Ireland had consistently high numbers of plants in flower too, with the average of about 20 – almost exactly on a par with Britain." "The highest count in Ireland was 40 species flowering on Bull Island, in Dublin Bay. The west of Ireland also fared well, with strawberry tree in flower near Killarney, Co. Kerry."

Roger Harrabin, BBC News.

Art in the Gardens: Statue of William Sefton Moorhouse

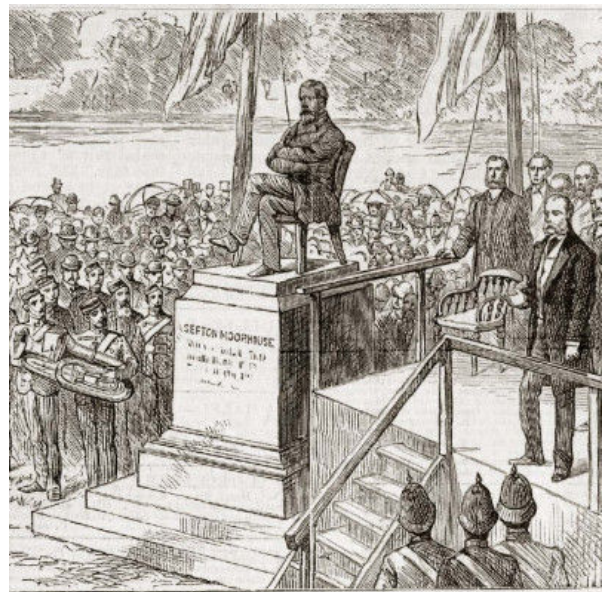
William Sefton Moorhouse was the second of the four Superintendents of the Canterbury Provincial government. Immortalised in bronze, he sits comfortably in his chair set on the Armstrong Lawn looking east along Hereford Street, over the stone boundary wall of the Gardens. Is he feeling a bit smug? Since the Christchurch earthquakes he hasn't had to compete for attention with fellow superintendent William Rolleston who used to stand 100 metres away with his back to the Museum looking down Worcester Boulevard; in the February 2011 earthquake Rolleston toppled off his plinth and lost his head!



Statue of Moorhouse

The bronze statue rests upon a blue stone plinth. Several inscriptions are carved into the stone; they read: "Wm Sefton Moorhouse to whose energy and perseverance Canterbury owes the tunnel between the Port Hills and the Plains. Born 1825. Died 1881. Superintendent 1858 - 62, 1866 - 68."

The statue cost about £1,000 and is the work of an English sculptor, G. A. Lawson. It was erected following a public subscription organised by Moorhouse's friends. Governor Sir William Jervois unveiled it on 22 November 1885.



Unveiling of statue

Who was this man, the subject of the statue? William Sefton Moorhouse was born in 1825 at Knottingley House, Yorkshire, the oldest son of William Moorhouse, a magistrate. He went to sea as a youth in coal-carrying vessels owned by his father, then studied law at the Middle Temple, was called to the Bar in 1849, and practised for three years on the northern circuit. In 1851 William and two brothers sailed to Canterbury, New Zealand. They had taken out a Canterbury Association land order, which they sold to the Reverend Joseph Twigger just before arriving at Lyttelton. After their arrival they bought a land order from a private owner and selected 50 acres at Moa-Bone Point, Redcliffs.

Early in 1852 William Moorhouse went to Wellington, where on 26 January 1852 he was

admitted to the Bar. With a brother he rode over part of the North Island looking at land, but returned to Lyttelton.

Late in 1853 Moorhouse and his brothers went to Wellington, intending to sail on the *Tory* for Victoria, Australia. While they waited for their ship, Jane Anne Collins, to whom Moorhouse had been unofficially engaged, arrived unexpectedly from England. The couple were soon married. The Moorhouses' first home after their marriage was a tent at Yan Yean at the Victorian goldfields, where the brothers took up a contract to build a waterworks.



William Sefton Moorhouse

He was soon back in Canterbury; he practised his profession as a lawyer and for some time acted as editor of the Lyttelton Times and as a resident Magistrate. He also farmed and had many dealings in land and was always interested in horses, prize and stud stock of all classes. Moorhouse bought the brig *Gratitude* and traded to Australia both on his own account and under charter for others. There was profit to be made carrying produce for the Victorian gold miners.

In 1855 the ship was chartered for one voyage by Ebenezer Hay of Pigeon Bay. With Moorhouse as a passenger the *Gratitude* sailed for Melbourne with a cargo of potatoes, oats, cheese and butter. It returned from Sydney carrying sugar, tea, rice, etc. for Hay and a cargo of horses purchased by Moorhouse. After a long passage of 37 days the ship arrived a few miles north of Lyttelton harbour. Another ship, the *Surge*, arriving at

the same time kept inshore to catch the morning wind reaching Lyttelton safely and reported the *Gratitude* a few miles off Lyttelton Heads. However, instead of staying inshore the *Gratitude* put to sea where she was caught in a south east gale and blown far to the north, eventually reaching Lyttelton after a trip of 58 days. On arrival it was found they had been given up as lost, and Mrs Moorhouse had already donned the apparel of a widow. Rations were very low for the last three weeks and they had resorted to grilled horseflesh. Of the 27 horses shipped only three were landed, some being lost or thrown overboard.

Moorhouse was elected to the Canterbury Provincial Council in 1855. In 1858 he became the Province's Superintendent after James Fitzgerald resigned from the role due to illness.

As superintendent, Moorhouse announced his intention to press vigorously for a railway tunnel from Christchurch through the hill to Lyttelton. Fitzgerald, by now Canterbury's agent in England, opposed the plan, but Moorhouse gained the support of the Council and of the Stafford government to raise a loan of up to £300,000. When the English contractor withdrew, Moorhouse obtained the consent of the Council to seek both a new contractor and a public loan in Australia, and left for Melbourne in January 1861. In both these missions he was successful. Moorhouse made a triumphant return to Canterbury in April. He was met at the Heathcote ferry by a cavalcade of 100 horsemen and a band playing the popular tunes "Oh Willie, we have missed you" and "Hail the conquering hero comes". He was drawn in a carriage to the Christchurch town hall where he addressed the crowd, and was able to say that the Union Bank of Australia, whose local manager had not been sympathetic to the council's needs earlier, had now relented.

Fitzgerald had meanwhile returned to Canterbury, still annoyed at his defeat on the tunnel scheme, and more so at the form of its financing. He quickly secured support to begin a newspaper, the *Press*, committed to opposing both Moorhouse and the railway tunnel; he had little success. On 15 May 1861 the Provincial Council formally complimented Moorhouse on his achievement, a compliment

echoed by Lord Lyttelton, the chairman of the Canterbury Association, on his visit to Christchurch in 1868.

He was re-elected as superintendent in August 1861, but caused difficulty for himself by his unorthodox method of obtaining the land necessary for a riverside jetty and railway station at Ferrymead. The acting treasurer, R. J. S. Harman, resigned rather than authorise the necessary payments, an event which caused the new Council to hold an inquiry. Led by Moorhouse's old opponent, Joseph Brittan, they nearly carried a vote of disapproval of the actions of the superintendent, but his opponents were chiefly rural members who did not want the tunnel. On this, and on a later occasion when Moorhouse, again at no personal gain, bought from Edward Jerningham Wakefield land required for the Christchurch railway station, he displayed an indifference to accepted procedures in public politics. Moorhouse's popularity was seen in his unopposed re-election as superintendent in April 1862. At that time Henry Sewell lamented that Moorhouse had complete "command of the Democracy".

Unexpectedly, Moorhouse resigned his office in February 1863 because of his difficult financial circumstances; curiously, he had in December 1862 vetoed an ordinance increasing the superintendent's salary from £700 to £1,500. Even the *Press* was complimentary on the occasion of his retirement, commending him for his undeviating faith in Canterbury. Moorhouse re-entered the Provincial Council in March 1863 and on 27 October in the same year joined Samuel Bealey's executive, just when there was a strong rumour that Bealey was contemplating retirement. But Fitzgerald encouraged Bealey to remain, and when his executive resigned, a new capable one was found in its place. Moorhouse, in opposition, watched his opponents continue his policies, even the implementation of the great southern railway for which Moorhouse had reserved land as early as 1859. For the rest of the period of the Bealey administration, Moorhouse was no more than an active critic of the policies of his successor. On 1 December 1863, when the Ferrymead railway

was opened, Moorhouse rode on the engine waving to the large crowd.

In 1865, after the discovery of gold, Moorhouse was drawn as if by a magnet into Westland politics. The construction of a costly dray road across the Southern Alps had made it possible for him to travel as the only passenger, sitting with the coach driver, on Cobb and Company's first venture over Arthur's Pass to Hokitika. He was just in time to make the required opening speech at his public nomination as the first parliamentary member for Westland. He won the subsequent poll by 40 votes. A month earlier, in February, he had won election for the seat of Mt Herbert, near Christchurch, but he opted in favour of Westland.

Well before Bealey's term as superintendent lapsed, Moorhouse indicated his intention to contest the next election. He was strongly opposed by Fitzgerald and his supporters but stood simply on his claim that he had "first taught the public the leading idea of progress". He won handsomely. On 13 October 1866 Moorhouse and members of the government attended the ceremonial journey over the first 13 miles of the railway south from Christchurch. The Lyttelton tunnel line was opened for passenger transport on 9 December 1867.

Moorhouse found his final superintendency difficult. He differed with the Council over the powers of the superintendent, and was criticised for unauthorised expenditure. Nevertheless, his resignation on 7 April 1868 was, once again, prompted by acute financial trouble; he was probably facing bankruptcy as a consequence of costly land purchases, and certainly felt the need to repay his creditors. By 1864 he had a large overdraft with the Bank of New Zealand and his failure to redeem one of six bills of exchange led him to file for bankruptcy in 1870.

Moorhouse, against his own best judgement, stood against William Rolleston for the superintendency in April 1870, failing by 897 votes to 1,800. Clearly the much-feared democracy had changed its mind. In the campaign he said that he was not the man he had been, and possibly the diabetes which dogged his later life was already troubling him.

He had an indifferent legal practice and his little farm somewhere beyond Spreydon did little but provide fresh eggs, butter and milk for his long-suffering wife.

In October 1870 he obtained the position of registrar in the Crown Lands Department in Wellington, and soon after was made registrar general, charged with implementing the new system of land registration for New Zealand. Perhaps for the first time Jane Moorhouse had a steady family income. But Moorhouse gave up the position in 1872 in order to contest the parliamentary seat of Egmont, offering himself as an ardent supporter of Julius Vogel, whose development programme he had anticipated a decade earlier. However, he was defeated by Harry Atkinson, who had strong local support 1872.

Moorhouse won the mayoralty of Wellington in 1874 but declined the honorarium of £200. He regained a seat in Parliament as the third member for Christchurch in December 1875, and after the dissolution in 1879 obtained the Ashley seat, which he held until his death in Wellington on 15 September 1881 from diabetic sepsis.

Without doubt Moorhouse's most famous achievement as a politician was the 2.6km Lyttelton rail tunnel, connecting Christchurch's port with its population. It was first tunnel in the world through an extinct volcano. It was a project he had to fight for every step of the way until the day the tunnel opened.

What is not so well remembered is that the foundation of Canterbury Museum, while he was Superintendent, was, in a large measure, due to him. It was Moorhouse who brought Julius von Haast to Canterbury as provincial geologist. Von Haast was later to head the Museum.

His name is perpetuated in Moorhouse Avenue in Christchurch and in the Moorhouse Range and Sefton Peak in the Southern Alps, the latter names both bestowed by Julius von Haast.

Bill Whitmore.

Earlier staff of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Alan Morgan

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens had a kind of training hierarchy that determined who did the dirty jobs, says Alan Morgan, who was born in 1938 and started as an apprentice in the early 1950s.

One job was whitewashing the imposing Cuninghame House windows to keep down the glare from direct sunlight on the hothouse plants within. The method of applying the whitewash would not have been up to modern safety standards.

"You put a pound of burnt lime in a bucket of water so it boiled," says Morgan, who went on to become a landscaping businessman. "You added a lump of fat, which provided a sticking. You had a bucketful of goop – warm, caustic stuff.

"You put it on the outside of the glasshouse with an old spring pump with a hose that used to throb. It fired a jet over the high glass, from a parapet about five metres up. You were trying to get it over the curve of the glasshouse."



Alan Morgan

In earthquakes not a pane of glass had been broken. But the building had shallow foundations.

Cunningham House had a boiler. There was also a boiler in a bunker under the potting shed floor. That entailed shovelling probably a cubic metre of coal into the bunker every day. "A worm drove the coal through and if you got a stone in the coal it could break a shear pin. Then you had to locate the intruder."

Morgan was rostered on to different sections for six months each during his apprenticeship. "I missed out on herbaceous borders, which I wasn't unhappy about."

As a young man, Alan lived on the Waimate family farm. He had an Uncle Alan who was director of parks in Ashburton.

Even as a boy, Alan was interested in gardening. His older brother was more interested in the farm than he was, "and I had to find another line of work". He knew he wanted to do horticulture in some form, but also knew that his uncle was frustrated by the bureaucracy in his work.

About 50 per cent of the Botanic Gardens workers were apprentices when he joined the scheme. His "class" had six girls, who were not allowed to be apprentices but could be trainees in the potting sheds and glasshouses.

"Everything was there to find out if you wanted to know it," says Morgan of the Gardens. Good mentors included Huia Gilpin and Lawrie Metcalf.

During his last year as an apprentice, Alan transferred his training to a commercial nursery in Ashburton.

"Probably half of us hived off overseas," he says. "I worked in England at a nursery". He worked for a couple of years as a foreman landscaper based in Reading. "I got work with some of the upper-crust houses around the place."

He then went to Holland for eight months. While in Holland, he put out feelers to the American East Coast and got a job in

Maryland, near Washington, DC. He worked for an aspirant to the state legislature, who drove around with a special sign on his car – an elephant holding a broom in his trunk. "He was going to sweep the place clean. He ended up a congressman.

Alan also worked as the British ambassador's chauffeur for a year.

When he was 26, he returned to New Zealand and started in business on his own. A friend, Roger Pollard, was a competitor. They joined forces as Morgan and Pollard in 1969.

Stan Darling.

NOTICE TO FRIENDS

Assistance needed for Botanic Gardens school holiday programme

Lynda Burns, Visitor Services Team Leader makes the following appeal to Friends:

We are starting new programmes these school holidays as a pilot. They are in addition to the discovery trails we run three times a year. If you weren't already aware these programmes were first started by the Friends. The new programmes will be educating about plants through science, art and craft activities. They will still be aimed at the 4-12 year old group.

We need help with taking bookings, taking payments and organising kids into groups to do the three craft activities. Amy will be running the activities and parents are expected to help with some of the hands-on activities. We may also need help with the actual craft activities should we get enough interest.

The programme is running at the back of the DOC information centre. So part of the assistance will be helping people find the room from the front of the building where we will have signage.

1. Is there anyone willing to organise the following roster? Please email me at Lynda.burns@ccc.govt.nz
2. Is anyone keen to help? Wait for the next email from the roster organiser

and think about when you might be available.

We need help on the following days from 10.00am - 3pm.

Tuesday 14th April

Wednesday 15th April

Thursday 16th April

Friday 17th April

Saturday 18th April

The programmes would run from 10.30am finishing at 2.30pm so the extra time is to help

set up and clear up. Ideally there would be two shifts 10 - 12.30 and 12.30 - 3pm.

This year is International Year of Light - so one of the activities is a "sun-catcher". Another is looking at extracting colour from leaves and the final is a giant artwork.

We really appreciated the input Friends gave us two years ago with the weaving workshops and I think the volunteers also enjoyed themselves.

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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