

# Newsletter

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

*No 100, Winter 2015*

## **President's Report**

Autumnal greetings – it's only a month to the shortest day and the end of our financial year follows a few days after that. How time flies.

The guiding season has wound up although we are still open to arranged guided tours. The daily tours are still not up to pre-quake numbers but neither are the numbers of tourists coming through the front gates. Group tours have been more prolific this year with many of them being for locals.

The propagating groups are planning a mid-winter sale since the plant cart with its honesty box has been withdrawn due to the high level of plant theft. We are working on a permanent sales stall that could be located closer to the Visitor Centre which will hopefully provide for better security.

The Committee presented a submission to the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) hearings. The LTP sets out the anticipated budget of Council expenditure for the next 10 years and the Committee was concerned that all the aspirational projects in the BGs current Management Plan are absent. The submission was a request for the Council not to lose the visions in the Management Plan and to facilitate the necessary council involvement in the projects that the Botanic Gardens Charitable Trust hopes to fund.

The Trust is working through a long list of structural processes, like getting charitable status, IRD number, strategic planning, etc before serious fundraising can begin. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Council is due to be signed with a modest ceremony when the Trustees and FOBG Committee members get to mingle with the councillors and top council officers.

One of the major issues is a decision on the first project off the blocks. The projects can only be capital, not operational, and need to be in the current Management Plan. To launch the Trust, the chosen project needs to have popular appeal. The Trust is not equipped to get involved in researching or designing projects and can't get involved in hiring consultants, getting consents or holding construction contracts. That is the Council's role.

The Children's and the Gondwana 'Gardens' need a huge amount of research, planning, costing and decision making before they can be launched for funding.

The project closest to being ready is the pedestrian bridge to the Visitor Centre which just requires Council acceptance to brief the architects to get started. Eventually a resource consent and construction contract will be required. The Trust will work on the funding.

Exciting times - we are on the brink of progress.

May the winter be kind to us all.

Alan Morgan

## Garden News

### Curator's Report

Because of a current Parks Unit reorganisation there is no report from Curator John Clemens for this Newsletter.

## Events in the Gardens

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

**Matariki Festival.** Celebrate Matariki in the Botanic Gardens with this fun-filled family day. Come along to Visitor Centre and enjoy storytelling, performance, kapa haka, a talk about rongoa (Maori medicinal use of plants) and loads more!

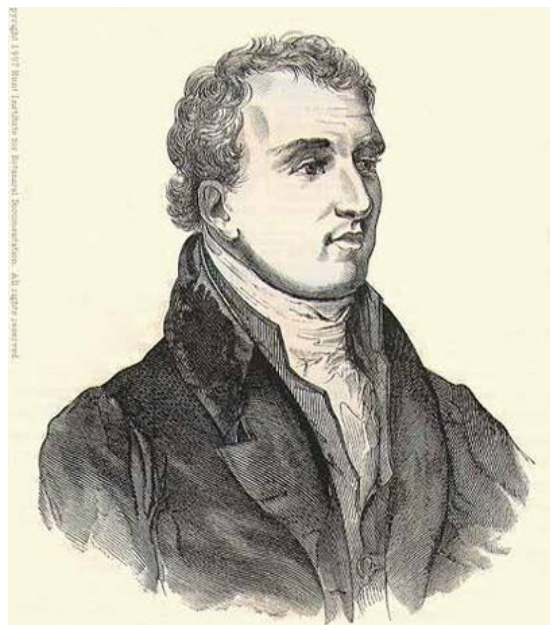
Sunday 21 June, 11am - 3pm. Ilex Function Room

## Articles

### Plant explorer - David Douglas

No other botanical explorer in western North America is more famous than David Douglas. His name is associated with hundreds of western plants, and may also be found on mountains, rivers, counties, schools and even modern-day streets. He was a remarkable adventurer even though the fates were mostly unkind to his person.

David Douglas, the son of a stone mason, was born at the village of Scone, a few miles north-west of Perth, Scotland, in 1799. He attended school for only a few short years and was often late after studying the flora and fauna at nearby Kinnoul Hall. When he was eleven he became employed as apprentice gardener at Scone Palace, the estate of the Earl of Mansfield. The young Douglas worked there under the strict tutorage of the head gardener, William Beattie, who disdained formal education. Upon completing his apprenticeship, Douglas moved to Valleyfield and the estate of Sir Robert Preston, where he tended a diverse variety of plants from around the world - those



*David Douglas*

grown both indoors and out. He also had access to Sir Robert's library and began again his education among these garden and botany books.

In the spring of 1820, Douglas obtained an appointment at the botanic garden at Glasgow University. A few months later a new professor of botany, William Jackson Hooker, was appointed. Hooker and Douglas began a long professional association. They spent time together in the field, with Douglas learning the fine art of pressing and drying plants. After two years Hooker recommended his young assistant to the Royal Horticultural Society of London. They were looking for a skilled gardener and collector to send to America.

Douglas made three separate trips from England to North America.

His first trip, to eastern North America, began on 3 June 1823, with a return in the late autumn of 1823. In mid-August the Scotsman was in Philadelphia looking at the plants brought back by Lewis and Clark in their 1804 pioneering expedition – this had been the first American expedition to cross the West United States. Douglas had a long-standing interest in the discoveries made by Lewis and Clark being already familiar with some from English gardens. By September Douglas was in south-eastern Canada, looking for seeds and cuttings of fruit trees as well as wild woody plants. Perhaps as a sign of things to come, while Douglas was in a tree looking at a mistletoe one of his guides stole his coat, money, field books and a textbook.

David Douglas returned to London as a hero and was fêted by all. He was made a Fellow of the Geological and Zoological Societies of London.

He travelled to Scotland to see his mother, now a widow. He also visited his guide and mentor, Professor Hooker in Glasgow.

Douglas was however not equipped to deal with fame and he had problems writing up his material from his journey despite having a detailed journal written during the expedition. The actual results were

minimal at best. Still, the Society, and in particular its secretary, Joseph Sabine, was impressed with the quality of the material sent back to London. Thus, when word came in the spring of 1824 that the Hudson's Bay Company was willing to sponsor a collector along the Columbia River, Douglas was the immediate choice.

Sabine arranged for him to get three books; Pursh's *Flora americana septentrionalis*, Nuttall's *The genera of North American plants* and François-André Michaux's *The North American Sylva*. These books contained the latest information on western North American trees. Overseeing Douglas' study was the Society's assistant secretary, John Lindley. As a final step in his education, Sabine sent Douglas to call upon Archibald Menzies. Thus, in the late spring of 1824, the two men who would come to play such important roles in the discovery and naming of the Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, came together for a chat over tea.

Douglas left on his second plant-hunting expedition in July 1824 and returned in October 1827. It was to the Pacific Northwest and turned out to be his most successful. Indeed it ranks among the great botanical explorations of a heroic generation.

His ship took him to Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. From there he travelled through rough territory far from civilisation, showing courage, tenacity and an acute sense of observation as well as a love of science and a passion for nature. He climbed Mt Brown because he needed to take in the view. In doing so he became the first European to climb the northern Rocky Mountains and named a number of them, including Mount Hooker after his professor at Glasgow University.

One of the collections he sent to England was the dried branches and needles of what he would call Oregon pine but which today is called Douglas fir. A seed of the

Douglas fir, which is still growing, was planted in the grounds of Scone Palace.



*Douglas fir cone, from a tree grown from seed collected by David Douglas in 1826.*



*Douglas fir at Scone Palace*

Other notable introductions included Sitka spruce, sugar pine, western white pine, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Monterey pine, grand fir, noble fir and several other conifers that transformed the British landscape and timber industry. As well there were numerous garden shrubs and herbs such as the flowering currant, salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), lupin, penstemon, mahonia and California poppy. His success was well beyond expectations; in one of his letters to Hooker, he wrote “you will begin to think I manufacture pines at my pleasure”. Altogether he introduced about 240 species of plants to Britain.



*Mahonia aquifolium*

In 1827 he travelled across Canada to eventually reach Hudson Bay and a ship home. In total, between 1825 and 1827, he covered over 10,000 miles.

Douglas then spent two frustrating years in England although in a sense it was a productive time. He was able to describe the sugar pine, *Pinus lambertianus*, the most distinctive discovery that he himself published. As for the other novelties, he left them for others to describe.

In October 1829, Douglas began his third expedition, heading back for the Columbia River. By that time the pages of the Transactions of the Royal Horticultural Society and other journals were beginning to fill with the technical descriptions of the numerous new species of flowering plants he had already discovered.

Again he was collecting in the Pacific northwest. He later travelled from Britain's Oregon to Mexico's California, staying there from December 1830 until August 1833. As well as collecting important garden herbs, trees and shrubs he also gathered many different kinds of mosses, a group of particular interest to Hooker.

He returned to Oregon but remained only a few weeks before sailing for Hawaii, arriving there just before Christmas of 1833. Douglas's winter visits to Hawaii were a routine event, as gathering plants was as rewarding botanically on the floristically rich islands as it was in the rich forests of Oregon. He stayed until July, the idea being that he would return shortly to London. He never made it.

Douglas had grown blind in one eye, and his vision was slowly failing in the other, so perhaps that's what caused his ultimate misfortune. While working on the island of Hawaii he fell into a bull trap that had been dug on a well-used game trail to capture wild cows. Maybe he fell in first and later the bull came along; maybe there was already a bull in the trap and the botanist fell in trying to look at it. In either case, when searchers came upon the site, his faithful dog was sitting near the edge of the pit, 34-year-old David Douglas was dead and the bull had stopped mauling his body. It was July 12, 1834.

He was buried on the Island of Oahu. Twenty-two years later a tombstone was erected, bearing his epitaph in Latin, but here translated:

*Here lies D. DAVID DOUGLAS, born in Scotland in the year 1799; who, an untiring traveller, sent by the London Royal Horticultural Society, died a victim of science in a mountain forest of Hawaii on the 12th day of July, 1834 A.D. "There are tears of things and they touch the mortal mind." Virgil.*

It is difficult for one today to imagine the nature of the great, native forests of the Pacific Northwest that David Douglas walked through in late 1820s and early 1830s. It is equally difficult to comprehend the pain he endured to do it. Douglas was a gifted collector, but in the field he was often in trouble. He once fell on a nail that penetrated his leg under the kneecap. He nearly drowned in a glacier-fed river, losing his rifle, part of his collection, his journals, and his kit. He was weeks away from civilization with little but his wet clothes.

Some stories have an element of humour, as when he found his long-sought sugar pine in southern Oregon. He had long since become separated from the others he was traveling with, so only he and his dog gazed upon the great tree. The cones, ripe with seed, were so high that to get them he shot at them with his rifle. This attracted Indians - in war paint. Crouching behind a downed giant of the very species he was studying, he pulled both pistols and his knives, and laid his rifle across the trunk. The Indians agreed to talk, via sign language, whereupon Douglas persuaded them to gather cones in exchange for tobacco. While the Indians were out of sight looking for cones, Douglas grabbed a branch and two cones and ran. Those specimens may still be seen today in England.

Douglas made a point of being friendly with the local tribes whenever he could but sometimes he got involved in tribal conflicts. He lived off the land and rarely had a tent, preferring to sleep wrapped in a blanket or under a canoe. He was a crack shot with the rifle, which helped to provide food - and impress the natives. But his greatest problem was often the local animals and insects - ranging from grizzly bears, rats and mosquitoes to fleas and ants.

Others would name the hundreds of new species Douglas found, often taking up the suggested names written on the tickets

associated with each collection. It is impossible to venture anywhere in much of the American West without seeing a plant he collected, that he named, or that was named for him. In fact, in many places, all one needs to do is look at the forests on the higher mountains; there it will be, Douglas fir, accounting for one-fourth of all the standing saw-timber in the United States.

Bill Whitmore

### **Art in the Gardens: *E Noho Ra De Chirico* by sculptor Paul Dibble**

Security fences appeared in large numbers after the Christchurch earthquakes and sadly still remain rather common in the city. Such a fence stands in front of the entrance to the former Robert McDougall Art Gallery in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. While it serves its purpose of preventing access to the earthquake-damaged structure it does not conceal the building's imposing classical entrance and the sculptures on either side.

The two sculptures are two components of the work *E Noho Ra De Chirico* made by noted New Zealand sculptor Paul Dibble for a 1995 exhibition. *E Noho Ra De Chirico* was bought by the Robert McDougall Art Gallery for \$30 000 in 1996 with funding provided by Christchurch City's Public Art Fund.



*E Noho Ra De Chirico*

On the left as you face the building is a female nude and on the right a leaf. The title of the sculpture means "Goodbye de Chirico" in Maori. By taking the forms of a classical female torso and leaf and relocating them in a New Zealand/Pacific context, Dibble pays homage to Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1974), an Italian artist known for his atmospheric paintings of strange pseudo-classical buildings and deserted city squares. De Chirico often included unexpected or unrelated objects in his compositions, giving his paintings a mysterious and dream-like quality.

Although they initially appear monumental, Dibble's bronzes are deceptively thin. He has said that he likes this flatness because it "promises so much from some angles, but delivers so little. Like a billboard or a building facade, it can be very powerful". While the torso is drawn directly from de Chirico's paintings, the leaf is an abstract symbol, suggesting the fall of modernism, which dominated Western visual art throughout the twentieth century.

Interestingly, the phrase "e noho ra" is used in Maori culture only by someone who is leaving and not when farewelling someone who is departing; this is a nuance that emphasises Dibble's intention of 'moving on' in a new artistic direction.

Plinths had been constructed on either side of the entry to the Robert McDougall Art Gallery when it was built in 1932. However the plinths were not used until the Dibble sculptures were placed upon them in 1996.

In 2003 when the new Christchurch Art Gallery was opened the sculptures were relocated from the Gardens to the front of the new Gallery's Worcester Boulevard entrance. Then in August 2010 the sculptures were returned to their original location on the plinths at the entrance to the Robert McDougall Gallery.

Public Art Advisory Group chair and Canterbury Museum director Anthony

Wright said at the time “The Dibble works provide an elegant frame to the Robert McDougall entrance and are particularly fitting in the context of the Gallery’s gardens setting.” Christchurch Art Gallery director Jenny Harper said that the Christchurch Art Gallery was pleased to return the sculptures to their former site. The architectural location of the sculptures is significant, as Paul Dibble took the context of the neo-classical Robert McDougall Gallery into account when paying homage to Giorgio De Chirico. “This significance is emphasised better when the works are in their original context,” Ms Harper says.

Paul Hugh Dibble, MNZM, is a New Zealand sculptor, having been born in 1943 in Thames. After training at the Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, he set up a bronze foundry in Palmerston North and produced a wide range of pieces.



*New Zealand War Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, London*

A notable recent work is the memorial for New Zealand’s military personnel who died during the First and Second World Wars. Paul Dibble designed this in association with architect John Hardwick-Smith. The sculpture was unveiled on 11 November 2006.

Bill Whitmore

## **Earlier staff of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens**

### **John Osborne Taylor, MBE, 31 October 1925 – 26 July 2005.**

Those of us with a longish association with the Christchurch Botanic Gardens will remember John Taylor with affection and esteem.

Born in New Zealand in 1925, John Taylor’s horticultural career was prompted by the economic times of the late 1930’s. A “trainee” position became available at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in 1940 and he was selected from a group of applicants to begin a five year course under the guidance of J. A. McPherson.

His intense interest in and dedication to horticulture was interrupted when he joined the Royal New Zealand Navy as an officer cadet in 1944 but this had its rewarding side for he was at HMS 246 Raleigh in Plymouth when the war ended. From there he wrote to the Curator of Kew seeking to become a student and he also visited Kew when on leave but to no avail. A third request before returning to New Zealand was passed on by the Curator, W. M. Campbell, to the Director, Sir Edward Salisbury. An acceptance telegram arrived and John began his two years at Kew in November, 1945. To him, being a student at Kew was the privilege of a lifetime and to be able to sit in on the lectures by eminent horticulturalist was an unbelievable experience. He was awarded the C. P. Raffill Prize in 1947.

Returning to New Zealand in 1948, he became foreman at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and in 1949, after being granted student fellowships, he continued his studies in the United States. He first went to the Arnold Arboretum and studied under the Professor of Botany at Harvard, Dr Karl Sax, and then to the New York Botanical Gardens with T. H. Everett. Prior

to going to America he gained the NDH (NZ) and won the Cockayne Gold Medal (top New Zealand student).

Back in New Zealand in 1951 he became Assistant Curator at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens until 1954, when two events occurred which changed his career path. A commercial wholesale nursery opportunity opened up and he married Morag. The nursery business flourished with a permanent staff of 18. Then an offer to purchase the company was made which he found difficult to refuse; he sold and remained as manager of the horticultural division for five years.

In 1972 he was appointed Senior Lecturer at Lincoln University to initiate a diploma course in Parks and Recreation Administration with some teaching responsibilities in turf culture, arboriculture and amenity horticulture. When he retired in 1986, tourism had been added to the course and a bachelor's degree introduced.

Throughout John Taylor's career he had been actively involved in horticultural and parks training and this was recognised in 1979 when he was awarded the M.B.E. For many years he was on the executive of the N.Z. Institute of Park and Recreation Administration and his services to training and research of the Institute were recognised by him being made an Honorary Life Fellow in 1985. In 1991 he received the Ian Galloway Memorial Award for "Outstanding services, achievement and professionalism". For six years he was Chairman of the Executive of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and he was elected an Associate of Honour in 1973 and its President in 1991. For over 25 years he was a member of the examining board of the Institute and for eight years he was National Moderator for the oral and practical examinations.

He had a long association with the Canterbury Horticultural Society. He served as its President. He was involved in

virtually all aspects of the Society, and frequently the initiator and driving force that saw so many events and other activities, come to fruition. These included major garden shows from the 1950s through to the 1990s, floral festivals and like events. He also led the Society's move to its new premises in Hagley Park in 1989, taking in his stride the extensive administrative and practical changes involved. Most of all, he was ever willing to share his extensive horticultural knowledge with members and anyone else seeking advice. In 1989 he was appointed coordinator for Christchurch's and New Zealand's participation in the 1990 International Garden and Greenery Expo being held in Osaka, Japan, a six month long event involving 80 countries and some 23 million visitors. This was a complex undertaking and, typical of his nature, John willingly gave many hours of his time over a period of months, which saw a very successful outcome for Christchurch and New Zealand. The library in the Canterbury Horticultural Society's headquarters is named the Taylor Library.



*John Taylor*

In his retirement he amused himself with 60,000 Sandersonia bulbs in a hide-away



patch from which the flowers and bulbs were exported to Japan.

In 1994 he became the first New Zealander to be elected to the prestigious Kew Guild. The Guild had just celebrated its first centenary, which meant that John Taylor also became the first president of the Guild's second century, an honour of which he was particularly proud.

As the new millennium approached, the Christchurch City Council was seeking ideas as to how best celebrate this momentous occasion. John soon found himself chairman of the "Garden City" committee whose role was to come up with a project that would celebrate the city's garden image. His suggestion of an international park including gardens representing Christchurch's six sister cities won the day. John's vision eventually became a reality and the Halswell Quarry Park with its sister city gardens attracted increasing numbers of visitors, from both the Christchurch region and beyond. This was perhaps his most satisfying achievement, providing as it does, an enduring legacy for future generations. He also initiated and played a leading role in establishing the Friends of Halswell Quarry Park, and was its president at the time of his passing. Other of John's commitments has included the Christchurch Garden City Trust, the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and other special interest groups.

### **Some of John's recollections from his times in the Gardens.**

#### **"In memoriam.**

At this time several of the Gardens' trainees were in the armed forces. Ted Barnett, son of the late Morris Barnett – who was at that time superintendent of parks and reserves for the City Council – was in the army in the Middle East. Sadly, he was killed at the Battle of Tobruk.

Also killed about this time in the Middle East was Bill Treleaven, another promising

young trainee. My own very close friend, Wally Lauder, had become a pilot in the Air Force. He was killed when the Dakota he was flying crashed on a foggy and misty night when he was returning from a freight delivery mission in France.

In December 1941, some No. 13 Scheme workers were given the job of digging air raid shelters in the Gardens. To meet possible needs of the potting shed staff (Darwin was being bombed by the Japanese at this time) a shelter was deep into the bank close to the river, just outside a privet hedge. The roof was camouflaged with green turf. The shelter was never used and the area returned to lawn.

#### **The potting shed**

My first recollections of the potting shed were that it was large and stark. It was a place to get to know the other staff members, a place to work, and a place for many of the outside staff to congregate on wet days. They were unable to do much on those days apart from washing clay pots with a scrubbing brush or rubbing the pots with cut portions of a sugar bag.

Hot water, to go into the half barrels which were the washtubs, came from kerosene tins warmed on a potbelly stove at one end of the shed. To keep the shed partly warm during winter, "slack" coal was brought up from the boiler house. My diary noted that we had a 4 deg frost on April 4, 1941 and on April 7 the Germans started their invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece.

At this time, the potting shed floor was simply a compacted bed of clay. It was tidied up at the end of each day and swept once a week, on Friday afternoons. Over the years, sweeping the clay with a stiff-bristle broom developed hollow areas where foot and steel-wheeled wheelbarrow movement was busiest. These depressions were not easy to fix. At the potting benches were wooden duckboards that gave you a stable height from which to work. There was money in the Domains

Board budget for floor concreting, but the shed floor didn't qualify as strategically important.

One prank I pulled, acting on a dare, was to climb to the top of a *Sequoiadendron giganteum* tree down by the United Tennis Courts. I had to break out the central-growing point and send it down as proof I had been there. To my shame, the tree is shorter than the others, having developed a head with three branches.

### **Clay paddling pool**

One task was to help in the children's playground paddling-pool annual cleanup. It was lined with earth-clay to prevent water loss. The drain plug which led to the river would be opened several days before the work. Then several workers with shovels, rakes, brooms and buckets would start to sweep the sloppy debris to the deep end. When the dross was gone, including water insects and tadpoles, fresh artesian water from the tap would refill the pool over about a week.

### **More responsibility**

Well into my second year as a trainee and with many of the senior trainees away, I was given more responsibility. I was in charge of the No. 2 glasshouse, the Orchid House. The fine collection had been built up mainly through plant donations from Clem Stokell, a well-known orchid specialist. I was told about the plants' cultural and maintenance requirements, and that the new trainee would be taking over the stoker and the frames.

### **Heating the glasshouses**

The stoker was a massive concrete structure about 12 feet underground. Also called the boiler house, it contained a sectional cast-iron boiler which was force fed with slack coal from an electrically driven worm.

Hot water rose from the boiler and made its way around the four-inch cast-iron pipes to the glasshouses by gravity flow. Coal had

to be shoveled daily from the coal chute into the large hopper alongside the boiler. During the 15 months that the boiler was my responsibility, I developed very strong shoulder muscles.

The propagating pit and the glasshouse next to it were sunk about three feet into the ground to maintain even temperatures throughout the year. That was before automatic temperature control was possible. When the weather was very wet, the sunken pathways would fill with water which to be pumped out so you could get to the plants.

### **Student antics**

We were not immune from such things. We had learned how to cut a V into the soft top of a yard-long piece of dry flax-flower stem. By wedging a rounded stone into the V and swinging the stem with force over your shoulder, you could send the stone some amazing distances. It was easy to clear the Lombardy poplars in the park.

One of my shots went almost straight up and like a bullet pierced a hole not much larger than itself through a glasshouse pane. No-one said a word!

On a hot February day, we were damping down the glasshouses when a water fight started. A full-on jet of water was directed across the roof of No. 6 glasshouse. What we didn't know was that the Director and some visitors got a direct hit on the other side. The hose holder was sent home and his pay docked for the day. Everyone else got a severe reprimand.

### **Nursery days**

Starting time at the council's Linwood Nursery was 7.30am. Six or seven staff kept this four-acre nursery in working order. All trees and shrubs, bedding plants and decorative pot plants for the city's needs were grown here. Street trees were a big requirement and grown to a considerable size before being planted out in streets and parks. We also provided up to 100,000

pine tree seedlings a year for extending the Burwood forest plantation.

My mother had four standard roses in her front garden. From the nursery, I brought home some bud wood of different roses and secretly budded some on her standard roses. She was not really angry when the next summer her pink rose 'Shot Silk' presented some good yellow and red flowers.

A heap of unused kauri glasshouse sash bars were at the nursery, and the director allowed me to take 16 of them home to build a small lean-to glasshouse. Dad was the carpenter, and I grew my own plants. I was now forever trapped, but willingly so, in the exciting and experimental world of growing things for ornament or for money.

#### **Seed gathering**

Lawrie Metcalf, my Botanic Gardens friend, would ride on my motorbike's pillion as we made several trips to the mountains to collect native plants and seeds. On one

trip, I left the motorbike at the Public Works Department camp at the top of Lewis Pass. To keep my tool kit from being stolen, I planted the bag across the Boyle River to be picked up several days later. We didn't want the extra weight up the Doubtful River. We returned in the dark and spent a long time trying to find the buried tools. A blob of rust is probably all that remains of them.

Dad sold the motorbike and banked the money after I joined the Navy. After three years overseas, I started looking for another motorbike. But my brother Bob, now a house surgeon, threatened to smash it to bits with the biggest hammer he could lay his hands on. He had just seen a young motorcyclist die in the operating theatre from head injuries following a crash. I didn't buy another one.

Based partly upon information provided by Adrienne Moore.

## **Friends News**

### **Guiding in the Gardens**

The daily guided walks have stopped for the season and will resume in September.

The fact that these daily walks have ceased does not mean that there is nothing to be seen in the gardens; winter can be a wonderful time to appreciate the beauty of the Gardens. If you wish to have a guided walk for yourself or for a group you can arrange this by phoning Pat at 384 3475.

### **AGM**

The date for the next AGM is Sunday 16 August at 2.15pm. Following the formal part of the meeting we can look forward to a talk by Colin Meurk.

At the AGM the Committee will be looking for a new treasurer and three committee members. Nominations for these positions would be greatly welcomed. They can be given to the Secretary or President, either prior to or at the AGM.

### **Articles for the Newsletter.**

As well as being a reader or subscriber of the Newsletter how about contributing an article?

An article could relate in some way to the Gardens but not necessarily. It could be about a plant explorer, another Botanic Garden, or about a plant or tree unfamiliar to us in Christchurch. You could express a view about the Gardens, as they are now, or what you would like to see in the future.

## Contact Numbers

### *Committee*

President	Alan Morgan	384 9976
Treasurer	Dot Noordijk	386 0595
Secretary	Roy Sinclair	337 6926
Membership	Penny Martin	332 6866
Plant Propagation	Don Bell	343 6699
Other Committee Members	Charles Graham	348 5896
	Jeanette Christiansen	355 5007

Ex Officio, Curator                      John Clemens                      941-7589

### *Other Contacts*

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](mailto: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](mailto:graememartin1@xtra.co.nz)

**Friends of Christchurch Botanic Gardens Inc**  
**PO Box 2553 Christchurch**  
or [friendsofthegardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthegardens@gmail.com)

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