



President's Report

Spring and autumn are my most favourite seasons and this year the spring flowers are particularly lush. As I walked over the bridge from the Armagh Street car park into the Gardens I was met by a loud humming. The lovely New Zealand native *Carpodetus serratus* (marble leaf or putaputaweta) tree was in full bloom and covered in bees. This was a super sight and a heartening sound so I stood for ages watching and trying to capture the busy bees on camera.



Bees in *Carpodetus serratus*

When I arrived home from visiting my family in Switzerland this year, Wolfgang Bopp our new Director, was already on the job and working hard to familiarise himself with his new surroundings. A hearty welcome to you and Janet, Wolfgang, it is great to have you at the helm.

Since the last newsletter we have had two interesting talks; Sue Verrall of *Discover Travel* spoke about the Great Rift Valley of East Africa, and Paul Michael of Fern Factor, talked about how he is propagating ferns to use as nursery crops for forest plantings. This was an interesting perspective on using ferns to help the environment, particularly when we learnt that one of these ferns was *Pteridium esculentum* or common bracken. Both these talks were very well attended and our November speaker, Colin D Meurk, Research Associate, Manaaki Whenua Landcare will undoubtedly be just as interesting.

Hopefully many of you will be able to join us for the Christmas party on 9 December and hear Wolfgang our new Director, in what I hope will be his first of many talks. Unfortunately our October visit to Flaxmere Gardens had to be postponed at the very last moment due to inclement weather. A very big thanks you to Mary Carnegie for organizing our events.

I would like to thank all those who have volunteered in the Gardens over the past few months. Helping our curators in their various sections, volunteering for the Backyard Buzz project on Conservation Day, morning and afternoon tea providers, the enthusiastic folk who helped build new benches for the Growing Friends, and in advance the 17 plus Friends and comrades who have volunteered at the

Horticultural/Gardening Q & A Hub. Last but definitely not least, my on-going thanks to our Guides and Growing Friends. We need you all and are extremely grateful for your generous help!

The Growing Friends have had a very busy few months with sales from the permanent stand moving at an escalated rate. On top of this our large spring plant sale surpassed all previous sales, takings being just over \$4,000.00. I would like to thank Hayley Luke from the Visitors Experience Team, for advertising the sale on Facebook and Wendy Drew who heads the CBG Visitors Centre Team for manning the eftpos machine. Both these services were new for our plant sale and made a large difference. Thanks must also go to Bede Nottingham, head of the CBG Operations Team, for helping with our sale organisation and a very big thank you to Lance and Alana for their willing help on the day. We couldn't have done without you. Thank you also to Brian Appleton, CBG Park Ranger, and in his absence, Lance and Alana for their daily attention to the plant stand.

While I was overseas a willing band of helpers built new raised benches in the propagating area for which the Growing Friends are very grateful as it means less bending and lifting of heavy plant trays.



Propagating tables

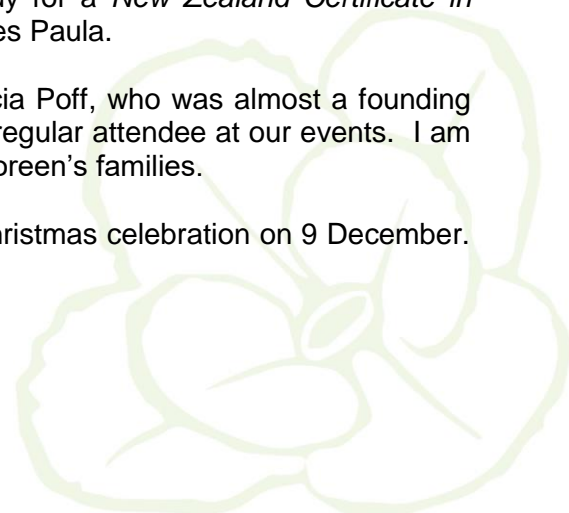
The Guides are underway with their daily and group walks. I urge you to take a walk with our very knowledgeable Guides; the Gardens are looking amazing and the Guides know where to find those hidden gems. If you would like to experience the Botanic Gardens with an expert please phone Faye, 021 141 3273 or 351 7798 or Pat 384 4875 for available times.

In September the Friends were very happy to award a study scholarship to Paula Silver. Paula is a full time employee in the Botanic Gardens' Nursery and she will study for a *New Zealand Certificate in Horticulture (Level 4) Nursery Production*. We wish you happy studies Paula.

Sadly, in October, two long-standing members passed away; Patricia Poff, who was almost a founding member of the Friends and Doreen Tulloch, an active member and regular attendee at our events. I am sure you join me in sending heartfelt thoughts to both Patricia and Doreen's families.

The Committee and I are looking forward to seeing you all at our Christmas celebration on 9 December. Until then take care and enjoy the lovely spring.

Jeanette Christensen





A letter from new Manager of Botanic and Garden Parks Dr Wolfgang Bopp

Dear Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens,

First of all I would like to thank all of you for such a warm welcome to the Gardens since my arrival a couple of months ago.

As you can imagine much is very new to me so I am spending time to find out what we do and how, getting to know the Gardens and the team. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the coming years; your support by being a Friend and often also by being a volunteer is of great value and it helps make the Gardens a space for all and together we achieve even more.

I hope many of you will have the time to join us for the Christmas celebration, where I look forward to telling you a little more about myself and what I have done in Germany and the UK. It will give me a chance to meet more of you, which I will continue to do in the coming months.

If you can't join us, may I wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

With my kindest regards

Wolfgang

Tulip trees - *Liriodendron tulipifera*

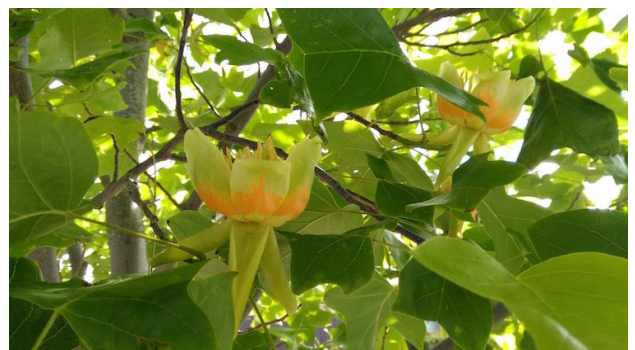
The *Magnoliaceae* family is a small family consisting of only two genera, one is the well-known genus *Magnolia* (225 species) which now also includes the genus *Michelia* and *Liriodendron*. The Tulip tree belongs to the genus *Liriodendron* which is composed of two species *L. tulipifera*, the tulip tree native of Eastern North America and its Asian counterpart *L. chinensis*.

In the wild the tulip tree is a deciduous, shade-intolerant, pioneer species which can reach heights of 60 m where it grows in moist woods and mountain slopes from sea level up to 1500 m. In cultivation the trees generally grow to

about 45 m tall with a trunk to 3m diameter, best grown in a park setting or a very large garden. It is distinguished by the four lobed leaves which appear almost square like, being truncated at the apex and base. Twigs and the roots of this species are fragrant when crushed which is a feature throughout the family. The common name is derived by the flowers' tulip-like appearance composed of six tepals, the inner three yellow, blotched with orange and the outer three greenish.

The flowers appear from late October into November. They are followed by a cone like aggregate of single winged samaras. Seeds are wind dispersed and can spread a distance roughly equal to 4-5 times the height of the tree; main dispersal time is April-May. Seeds can remain viable for 8 years in the soil; they need cold stratification to germinate and are often found around the parent trees in the Botanic Gardens.

Tulip tree timber is useful for the construction of cabinets and furniture. The two biggest mature specimens are in the Botanic Garden water garden. There are also three specimens on the Archery Lawn. Two of these are *L. tulipifera* 'Aureomarginatum' and the other is a commemorative tree planted by Queen Elizabeth 2nd in 1986.



- Flowers on *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Coming into flower in the Botanic Gardens is *Magnolia figo* which is located in the fragrant garden and temperate Asian border. This species is better known under its old name, *Michelia figo*.

Dean Pendrigh (Botanic Gardens)

Are you interested in volunteering?

Hayley Luke, Visitor Experience Officer, would welcome volunteers to assist with the programme - *READiscover the Gardens* - to be held over the period Monday 7 to Sunday 27 January 2019. Five treasure boxes full of favourite kiwi reads will be hidden in various

locations in the Botanic Gardens. Those participating will be able to get a map from the Visitor Centre to find and unlock the boxes and spend some time reading in nature.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help maintain the trail, please email Hayley.Luke@ccc.govt.nz with availability.



Articles

Look at that plant - *Veronica laudiana* Banks Peninsula sun hebe

You may have noticed that the format of this latest issue of the Newsletter has changed. The front page is now headed by the new logo of the Friends, *Veronica laudiana*.

Veronica laudiana, or sun hebe, is a particularly appropriate choice as the species is one of nine plants endemic to Canterbury. It is rare in the wild, being classified as “declining” and is now only found on the Port Hills. Formerly it was recorded from riverbeds on the plains.



Hebe laudiana on Big Rock above Orton Bradley Park.
Photo Chris Gill

It is a spreading, low shrub, 100-300 mm tall, bearing pairs of fleshy, red-edged, rounded

toothed leaves. The twigs are fuzzy - you need a lens to see this. The leaves are 12-25mm long on a short stalk. Flowers are pinkish, in rounded clusters up to 4cm long, on stalks above the leaves.



Hebe laudiana. Botanical drawing by Hugh Wilson (from Library, Christchurch Botanical Gardens)

Look for *Veronica laudiana* on rocky places on Banks Peninsula. It is a species inhabiting open rock outcrops and cliff faces, often growing in the most exposed sunny habitats.

It is threatened by gorse or other overshadowing plants and weeds which compromise the open rock outcrop habitat this species requires. Browsing by goats is also a threat.

The genus gets its name from Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is “speedwell”. The name is often believed to

derive from the Latin *vera* (truth) and *iconica* (image), but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means “bearer of victory”.

There has been confusion over the naming of this plant for many years and as a result there are now many synonyms. Originally, in 1843, it was named *Veronica lavaudiana*. Then in 1926 the name was changed to *Hebe lavaudiana*, in 1993 to *Heliohebe lavaudiana*, in 1994 to *Parahebe lavaudiana*, and then recently reverting back to the original *Veronica lavaudiana*!

Bill Whitmore

Gondwana Garden

In his master plan for the Christchurch Botanic Garden, ten years ago, the curator, the late Dr David Given, envisaged a Gondwana Garden.

To this end, in July 2008 interested parties from across the country were invited by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and the Christchurch City Council to a Gondwana Scoping Workshop. A variety of specialists - geologist, botanist, landscape architect, horticulturalist, ecologist, museum director, geographer, social scientist, educator, palaeontologist, designer and one Press writer got together to discuss Dr Given’s proposal. We were directed to discuss three questions:

- 1) Who is the audience for the Gondwana garden?
- 2) What is the story to be told?
- 3) How will we tell it?

Visitors to the Botanic Gardens range from pre-schoolers through primary, lower and upper secondary school pupils, to tourists and locals. We were reminded by Anthony Wright, Director of the Canterbury Museum, that the average age of a visitor to the museum is 11 years, so whatever the design, the story must be told clearly for young and old alike.

What was Gondwana?

Gondwana - some call it Gondwanaland - was a huge continent that included most of the land masses in today’s Southern Hemisphere: Antarctica, South America, Africa, Madagascar, Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand. It also included Arabia and the Indian sub-continent, both of which have now migrated into the Northern Hemisphere.

The name Gondwana is Indian; the discovery of this great continent began in the Deccan region of central north India, an area west of Calcutta known in Indian history as the Land of the Gonds. Victorian geologists found a very distinctive sequence of rocks here in the 1870s. They described unique rock formations comprising sands, silts and muds originally deposited by rivers, laid down in the carboniferous era, 300-145 million years ago (MYA). A decade later, the same motif was found in Australia, Antarctica and South America. Each of these sequences contained floral fossils, the most consistent being the *Glossopteris* flora, the “Badge of Gondwana”. This flora grew around the central ice-cap that became Antarctica and each Southern Hemisphere region including New Zealand. It has not been found in Europe, Asia or North America.



East Gondwana began to break up as India separated and moved northward about 120 MYA. New Zealand is a small chunk of East Gondwana that broke away from what became Australia somewhere between 130 and 85 MYA. An area about half the size of Australia, it carried a comprehensive biodiversity.

New Zealand’s geology records the sea encroaching on the land, and indeed New Zealand did sink in the 60 million years 83-23 MYA. There is continuing debate as to just how much land remained above the sea in that enormous time span. The *Encyclopedia of New Zealand* states that “less than a third of the area of modern New Zealand remained above sea level as numerous islands.

And then it rose again. About 8 MYA the Southern Alps began to push up along the Alpine Fault. New Zealand flora appeared, mostly by dispersal from as far as the Northern Hemisphere. By 1.5 MYA, however, when the last Ice Ages began, any tender plant was

extinguished. For 10,000 years glaciers carved out the landscape, forming lakes and moraines, with temperatures averaging much lower than today.

Discussions at the workshop were full of different ideas as to how Gondwana could be represented in a garden. Horticulturalist and Gardens guide Alan Morgan, a driving force for the Gondwana Garden, is passionate about its presentation of native flora. He suggested a time-line as a teaching aid. "Perhaps we could begin by describing the flora pre-separation: the Araucarias (kauri including monkey puzzle and Norfolk Island pine) whose fossilised remains can be found on the beach at Curio Bay in the Catlins. They have lain there for 176 million years. The great podocarps, ancestors of totara, miro, kahikatea and rimu, were growing in these primeval forests. *Nothofagus* (southern beech) was growing in the temperate climate of what is now Antarctica and South America and along the mountain range of what would later be inland from the east coast of Australia."



The plant genus *Nothofagus* illustrates Gondwanan distribution, having originated in the supercontinent and existing in present-day Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, and South America's Southern Cone.

"Then we could move forward to about 85 MYA, by which time New Zealand had separated from Australia, with the Tasman Sea a great widening rift. The separated land mass, now called Zealandia, included New Caledonia at its northern tip. We had araucarias, podocarps and *Nothofagus*, but we also had ferns, including tree ferns, bryophytes or mosses, equisetums or horsetails, lycopods or clubmosses, protea family, lily family, mistletoes, celery pines, heath family, buttercups and dracophyllums or grass trees.

"Nearer in time, 65-15 MYA, our planet was bombarded with huge meteors and skies darkened by large-scale volcanic activity, which killed off half the flora and animal species, including the dinosaurs. The pohutakawa ancestor in the genus *Metrosideros* arrived in

New Zealand, being spread by birds or wind, and 10,000,000-or-so years later New Zealand had sub-tropical palms, cycads and members of the protea family.

Then came the apocalyptic sinking of Zealandia, when most plants died out, but there was active speciation on separate islands that remained above water, such as in the genera *Coprosma*, *Metrosideros*, *Fuchsia* and *Epilobium*.

How will this story be told? We don't know yet. But we do know that the Gondwana Garden will be encircled on three sides by the Avon to the north of the children's playground in the Botanic Gardens. Next to a playground is the best place to attract children to the astonishing story of New Zealand's primeval beginnings, as illustrated by our geology and our flora.

Diana Madgin

Greeting for United Nations International Day of Peace

The following are excerpts from a speech given by the Japanese Consul, Mr Tsunakake, on Friday 21 September 2018 at 3.15 pm at the World Peace Bell in the Christchurch Botanical Gardens.

I am really honoured to greet you here on behalf of the Government of Japan, especially in front of the World Peace Bell which was donated from Japan.



Mr Tsunakake at the Peace Bell

The very first Peace Bell was initiated by a Japanese citizen, Mr Chiyoji Nakagawa, who dedicated all his life to world peace and it is really a fascinating story. He collected coins

from all over the world to have them mixed with molten bronze and tin alloy to be cast into a temple bell in Japan. This was shipped to New York to be placed at the United Nations as the World Peace Bell, to ring out the message of World Peace to all the people over the world. Later on, twenty more replicas were made in the same way as the original one and were donated to 16 countries other than Japan. One of them has been installed here in Christchurch and today, on the United Nations Day of Peace, we are ringing it at the same time as the official ringing by the UN Secretary General in New York, to join our peace wishes together with a prayer for peace all over the world.

I was born in Hiroshima, so from a young age I was educated strongly about peace. I don't know whether this education has really affected my diplomatic career of over 30 years since then, but I have been stationed and served in many war-torn countries including Israel and Palestine as well as South Sudan. Also, at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan for a long period of time I was involved with the humanitarian assistance to the refugees and any other victims of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Palestine. Throughout my career, I have been forced to think intensely about war and conflict, and of course have pondered about how on earth "World Peace" can be realized, so I would like to disclose here my personal thoughts which have been concluded through my career experiences. First of all, it was really a surprising point for me, perhaps for you as well, that in conflict zones in the world, no-one amongst the local people would deny the importance of "peace". It is no doubt that all people usually want peace and order, in their minds everyone wants conflict to end instantly and peace to prevail. But in reality somehow conflict cannot be stopped. Why is this?

Of course, the causes of conflict in countries of the world are numerous but often can be traced to past hatred between races and discrepancies in nations' prosperity. However, I can conclude that the most fundamental cause is the personal insecurity arising from the inherent complexity of human relations between individuals. In other words, all human beings have an inferiority complex and they fear the self-denial which comes from it. So in order to defend themselves, people exercise force strongly against others. Human beings possess that instinct, so cannot do otherwise.

However, because humans are intelligent beings, I believe that we can devise ways of preventing conflict in the future. Therefore, instead of just shouting "Peace is important", we must act individually in a concrete way to build "peace" in our world. In this context, I personally believe that it is most important to be able to recognize "diversity". This is what the former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, used to tell me, when I was working with her for the refugee assistance. In the world, no one person is the same as another, so first acknowledging the existence of someone different from oneself and accepting each other's viewpoints gives rise to peace".

In order to be able to recognize the diversity, in my opinion, it is very important for individuals to perform the following 3 actions:

1. Firstly recognize that you are different from others. This must be the beginning of acknowledging "diversity"
2. In order to understand the differences between yourself and others, communicate with others as much as possible. If you cannot understand the other person, unnecessary suspicion and insecurity will be the consequences, which lead to conflict. That is why we need to enhance our communication with each other as much as possible.
3. Consider things from the viewpoints of other persons different from yourself. In other words, reject selfish thinking evermore and constructively consider about other people's contribution towards sharing the bigger interests with them. If you cannot make an allowance for another's way of thinking, you cannot acknowledge "diversity"

Alfred Adler, who was one of the three greatest psychoanalysts, said that there are three necessities for human happiness:

1. Liking yourself.
2. Having good relations with other people.
3. Assisting others and contributing to the society.

So, if we can achieve those three things, we can all be happy and I believe when all the people will be happy in the world, we can achieve a peaceful world.

On behalf of the Government and People of Japan, let me express our cordial gratitude to

you, all New Zealanders, for warmly accepting Japanese citizens here in New Zealand. Indeed, all the Japanese people who reside here can enjoy safe and peaceful lives in New Zealand, thanks to you. I think it is because many people here can recognize and even respect "diversity". There are not many countries in the world which have such a generous population as New Zealand, so I fervently hope that all countries in the world can be like New Zealand, and recognize the "diversity" in their own, as they should be in the near future

Weather notes for spring 2018

I well remember many decades ago now a headline in the Press in October /November concerning a "Million dollar rain" over Canterbury at that time, a time of jubilation because everybody knew then that such a rain in early summer was worth so much to agriculture in the Province.

Fast track to our present situation and there is no such understanding and no such headlines in the Press, except of course for us gardeners who understand such outcomes still. And I have no doubt our Mayor will also be rubbing her hands in relief as it fits in well with her call for water conservation in the interests of the repair of the water pumps of the City, worth a headline in itself?

Not surprising then that listening to the farmers' session this Saturday morning (24 November), everyone around the agricultural scene is celebrating a magnificent spring. Only Otago and adjacent areas have had their recent setback with excessive rainfall and associated flooding and even here in Canterbury the recent rains of 18-20th have certainly been quite enough for the moment. Out on the farm south of Christchurch the 50 mm rain over this period certainly has brought the soil to field capacity with even some surface water over the recently sown pumpkins but even there the warm sun that followed has caused the seed to sprout rather than rot. Here in the City we missed the hail and thunder of further south with my site receiving just 31 mm which once again was just about right for the garden.

Although rainfalls have been above average for October (80.8 mm) and now to date (24 November) (75.2 mm) it should be remembered that evapotranspiration from the rapidly growing plants means they need all of this and on lighter

soils I can imagine that some will still have used some additional irrigation because the rains have been interspersed by some excellent extended dry periods with plentiful sunshine. In fact both October and to date November have been good sunny months above average with the added bonus of no extreme temperatures either high or low maximum - 28.1 C on 8 November and minimum 3.6 C on 2 November. Only some susceptible areas, mainly inland, will have had to use frost protection.

The City and Canterbury in general have had a magnificent spring, so far. The long range forecasts from NIWA have left a lot to be desired and one can only imagine that climate change sceptics will be only too quick to point out that climate models of the future still have much to achieve. I find that Tony Trewinnard of Blue Skies Weather, writing monthly for *Canterbury Farming* provides an excellent over-view of the potential future weather trends.

Perhaps we do need a Thanksgiving Day rather than the usual knee jerk response to a few days of human inclement weather. But then as some will know I am a Morris Dancer of yesteryear.

Meanwhile the storm chasers of the Province are gearing up for a possible bonanza of a season with last weekend's amazing cloud formations and associated hail and thunder plus the bonus of one of the best tornado funnels for decades causing renewed activity in the Canterbury Thunderstorm Society. It could be an interesting summer; be prepared.

Bob Crowder





New: Thirty-minute, guided walks in the Botanic Gardens

Ninety-two cruise ships are arriving in Akaroa in the current season from October through to April. They bring 197,000 visitors some of whom want to see Christchurch. The team that guides visitors to the Botanic Gardens, under the aegis of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, have attempted for some time to meet the needs of cruise-ship passengers who bus to Christchurch. Their stay in Christchurch is a short three hours before returning to their ship.

Vicki Steven, one of our guides, initiated some valuable work on this possibility and found that it was not financially viable to advertise on the cruise ships before they arrive. We needed another strategy involving the buses that bring them to Christchurch. The Cityline Bus Company has helped us generously by advertising our walks as they meet the passengers boarding the buses in Akaroa.

The guides are now in a trial to welcome visitors and advertise our service at the gates into the Gardens by the Canterbury Museum. There is plenty of competition for visitors but the competition is friendly and helpful, as we each offer our enticing opportunities. Some visitors want to see Christchurch on a tram or a bus and some want to visit the Museum, Art Gallery, Arts Centre, the Square, the Antarctic Centre and/or the Gondola. The Caterpillar in the Gardens and punting on the Avon also attract their customers and some visitors are on pre-booked mixtures of the options above.

Our trial started in mid-October. We offered a thirty-minute guided walk to see *The Best of the Gardens* and we were available to start anytime from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our walks begin at the Museum entrance and we ask for a donation that will go to the Gardens.

The cruise visitors return to their buses for their journey back to Akaroa at 2.30pm. In November there are 11 ships and December has 17.

Our 90 minute walks at 1.30pm each day are still a feature, but some guides are adjusting to the shortened time frame as well. A thirty-

minute walk is not one third of a ninety-minute walk. Not only is the time shortened but the information from the guides also needs to concentrate on highlights and overviews rather than detailed botanical descriptions. That change requires new skills and our training has begun. There is an emphasis on showing our natives and our unusual plants as well as some of our unusual imports. Highlights is a key word.



WHAT is Included

- The Longest herbaceous border in the southern hemisphere
- A Cork Oak Tree
- The avenue of big trees
Sequoia, Douglas Fir, Kauri, Cedar...
- The Silver Fern and rediscovered Wollemi Pine
- The Central Rose Garden
- The Conservatory and its exotic plants.
- The Visitors centre and the Ilex Cafe
- The Avon River and it's wildlife
- Some history - and much more...

 30 mins
Guided Tour

From the Museum
for a donation
to the gardens

Organised by the friends of the botanic gardens.
Your donation is used to enhance these wonderful gardens.

While the guides are designing their own versions of a thirty-minute walk, they also need to find out what the visitors want. Guides are encouraged to meet the needs of the visitors rather than having a fixed and rehearsed series of walking interspersed with mini-lectures. Some visitors want colour; some want the unusual; some want flowering annual plants; some want tall trees; some want to fill in time; and some just want a quiet walk among beauty. There is also some variation in our visitors' ability to walk for thirty minutes so having a

starting point and a fixed destination is not necessarily a good plan.

Interestingly, our position at the Museum entrance seems to attract visitors who don't want to walk but who want to know where the nearest toilet or ATM machine is, where they can get a meal or a cup of tea, where the bus to the gondola leaves from and at what times, and...and...and...and...

So what has happened in the first part of the trial from mid-October to 6 November? We met buses from five cruise ships. On those five days we hosted 24 visitors strolling through Christchurch to the gates by the Museum. They wanted a short, guided walk to see the highlights of the Gardens. We call these visitors "walk-ups" as they had to be met, welcomed and gently persuaded to take our walk, among many other options. None were locals; locals claim that they "know" their Gardens. That is often untrue.

Clearly we are meeting a need but can we staff it? Should we still offer the 90 minute walk? What is the best route or does it change with each visitor? Do we roster one, or two, or three guides each day to cover the two hour time slot? Do we drop the emphasis on buses from cruises and offer our walks every day, or only weekends, or three days each week? And, what are the best times when we should be standing at our signage at the Museum gates?

You can help. Why not train and join our Guiding Team now and enjoy an outgoing and valuable service to your own Botanic Gardens? (Phone Faye on 351 7798)

Neil Fleming

Commemorative trees for Bill Sykes and Max Visch.

For many years Bill Sykes was a very active member of the Friends and was its Honorary Botanist.

Bill contributed articles to this Newsletter and there have been a number of articles about him.

In the most recent (*Newsletter* 100, Spring 2017), Di Madgin paid tribute to his work; this followed the award to him of Life Membership for extraordinary service to the Friends. This award coincided with Bill being awarded another accolade; he had been granted title of Foreign

Member of the venerable Linnean Society. This was awarded for Bill's major opus *The Flora of Eastern Polynesia*.

Bill died earlier this year.



Max Visch was another very active member of the Friends. His knowledge of plants, especially of trees, was immense. He was always generous in sharing that knowledge. If I ever wanted to identify a particular tree it was to Max that I turned.

Max was honoured with several significant awards perhaps the most significant being the grant in 2000 of the MNZN (Honorary Membership of the New Zealand Order of Merit) for his services to the community.

Max died in January 2014 and a tribute to him appeared in the autumn 2017 issue of the Newsletter.



It was gratifying to learn recently that trees have been planted to commemorate both Bill and Max in the Orton Bradley Park.

Bill Whitmore



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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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