



PRESIDENTS REPORT **SPRING 2022**

I hope you've all been enjoying the sunnier summer weather, interspersed with rain from time to time, which I know the weeds in my garden are loving!

It's been a challenging time with the pandemic restrictions coming in waves, bringing with it uncertainty about going out, enjoying gathering with friends and family and getting on with life. The Gardens have noticed a drop in visitor numbers at times when outbreaks are announced, though it's been lovely to see plenty of people out there on sunny days with children, enjoying wandering through the Gardens, picnicking, or splashing in the pool.

Possibly as a result of reluctance to venture out, our Guided Walk numbers have been low in December, though these have picked up again in January. Don't forget to try one of these out yourself and discover a bit more about the Gardens that you might not have known previously. The list of walks for the month can be found on the Friends website: <https://friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz/whats-on/>

The three propagating teams have all been working very hard to keep up with demand at the plant stand. Our plant sales are continuing to go extremely well, thanks to the efforts of these teams and support from Gardens staff in opening and locking up the stand each day. As you'll see from the two

images in this report, the plants are definitely finding a happy home!



1: *Agastache aurantiaca*



2: *Rudbeckia species*

We had a great influx of volunteers to work in the Gardens in November. This has been really helpful in replacing people who are no longer able to volunteer, but we are always keen to hear from more of you to help out the gardeners, who report that they have fewer community-based groups coming in to help with some tasks, due to Covid restrictions. Help is always welcomed! Please email me at janechbythesea@gmail.com if you are interested in being a volunteer in the Gardens.



Veronica laudiana
Sun Hebe
Endemic to Banks Peninsula
Christchurch

With the ongoing cancellation of so many events, we were lucky to only have to postpone our talk on the Art and Craft of Beekeeping. This is now coming up on Sunday the 20th of February at 4:00 p.m. in the Kiosk.

Working in the Gardens has continued for all volunteers with more awareness of keeping ourselves, staff, and any visitors safe, by following the guidelines given by the Council on managing at the red traffic light alert level, with support from Gardens Director Wolfgang Bopp and staff/volunteer manager Richard Poole.

We hope you all get a chance to come and enjoy the late summer colour and the quiet, hidden away areas of the Gardens where you can just enjoy the birdsong of koromiko (bell birds), piwakawaka (fantails) and the occasional kereru (woodpigeon).

Jane Cowan-Harris

**President for Friends of the
Christchurch Botanic
Gardens**



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EDITORS NOTE

Another busy season in the gardens for garden staff and Friends' volunteers alike. Jane and Jeanette's descriptions of the volunteer work going on, show there is much opportunity for creativity and development, and for education and learning that is being taken up. It is a great place to be.

Grant outlines exciting new plans to expand the range of plants grown in the Rock Garden. Watch this spot!

Alan comments on our city's natural heritage highlighting amongst other things the seven endemic plants that we have here in Christchurch and calls us to celebrate and curate them. He also explains the meaning of the word endemic (and other botanical words), removing some of the confusion that can exist.

We have two book reviews in the newsletter: Alan's review of 'The Lonely Islands' by Terry Thomsen which describes latest theories on how New Zealand acquired its current amazing flora and fauna, and Bernadette's review of 'Come Back to Mona Vale' by Alexander McKinnon which paints an intriguing picture of some of the more recent history of Mona Vale's owners.

The update on the Peace Bell has a certain poignancy about it in the light of recent events in the Ukraine. It is sobering to think that with the best intentions of many, a situation such as we see unfolding before our eyes can still arise.

The original World Peace Bell sits in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York; it was forged in the aftermath of World War 2. The World Peace Bell Association was formed in 1982 "to promote a world free from the evils of nuclear war". The Christchurch bell was gifted to us by the WPBA in 2006. For more information about the bell visit the WPBA website at <https://worldpeacebell.nz/> They also have a Facebook page.

Annette Burnett

Editor for Friends of the Botanic Gardens Newsletter

ROCK GARDEN FLOWERS

The three photographs opposite were taken in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Rock Garden last October; they help to showcase the wide variety that can be grown in a rock garden setting, and just how beautiful they can be!



3: *Aubretia* 'Double Pink'



4; *Primula* species, self-sown



5: *Pulsatilla vulgaris*



MONA VALE UPDATE

Volunteers

We now have five Friends working alongside Heidi and Ben to help maintain the large area of gardens at Mona Vale. On behalf of Nicky, Heidi, and Ben we would like to thank you for your time and energy. I feel confident when I say that you are all loving what you do.



6: Claire Fitzgerald (Friends volunteer) and Rebecca Ganaway, (Parks Cadet) working in the Mona Vale Rose Garden

Projects

The sub-committee working to support Mona Vale have been busy in the last six months meeting with Nicky Brown the Manager of Mona Vale, to identify and source plants to refurbish two garden collections.

Iris border

The Iris border just past the bath house, was identified in need of an overhaul as many of the irises have died out and the more vigorous rhizomes have taken precedence. The Iris Society have been contacted and are keen to help with sourcing and replanting this collection. This will happen in February when the existing irises will be lifted, those to be kept replanted, and new rhizomes sourced. This will be a large job and the staff are grateful for the help.

The word *Iris*, which is both the common name and the genus name comes from the Greek word for rainbow. A suitable name for the wide variety of flower colours within this plant family. They belong to the plant family Iridaceae and have around 300 species and thousands of varieties.

The family is nearly worldwide in distribution, but it is most abundant and diversified in Africa. (Source Wikipedia)

The species in the Mona Vale collection are generally called 'Flags'. This collection will hold a variety of unusual and rare named irises, different to those in the Botanic Garden collection.

Hot garden

The 'Hot' Garden at the back of the bath house, is still very pretty, however it needs to be re-planted to reflect the original species plan. Once again, as happens in gardens, the more robust species have changed the original planting layout. The Friends have been able to source some of the original species of dahlia, poppies, red hot pokers etc. which were in Nicky's original plan.

White garden

The Courtyard, in the southern corner past the fernery, is also being changed during February. This corner had become over-grown, and Nicky has plans for a formal White Garden to which the Friends have contributed a large concrete urn to stand at the entrance.

Guided walks

These have been in the first and last Saturdays of each month and have attracted large numbers of participants. It is lovely to see the public interested in learning more about the history and plantings in this beautiful area of Christchurch.

If you would like to join the Friends on a walk or volunteer to support the staff at Mona Vale you will find contact numbers to call on our Friends website: <https://friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz/>

Jeanette Christensen

Coordinator for the Friends' Mona Vale Volunteers

ROCK-SCAPE UPDATE

Rock Garden

It was June 2020 (Newsletter No 120) when we last gave you an update on the progress of the Rock Garden Restoration Project. Since then, we have worked diligently to bring the onion weed, couch grass and thistle under control and to date we have made good in-roads towards achieving this goal. In addition to this we have started to visually reclaim the rocks back in the original Rock Garden which has enabled us to develop a number of interesting collections i.e.

- *Silene*
- *Primula* and *Androsace*
- *Iris*
- *Gentian*
- North American species
- *Saxifraga*
- Dwarf *Rhododendron*
- *Phlox*
- *Cyclamen*

These collections are currently in their infancy, but we already have good numbers of species and varieties in the ground. We also have a comprehensive range of plants which have been propagated and grown on, ready to complement the different collections going forward.

There are a further two areas in the Rock Garden to be developed. These are the flat area in the center of the garden, where the initial preparation to turn this area into a scree garden will happen over this winter, and we will be working on the top terrace beside the rhododendrons. Here we will expand the collection of irises and other temperate, interesting taller alpine species.

The key focus with the initial plantings is to expand our diversity and range of species in each collection and to add more seasonal appeal throughout the year. Currently we are starting to see this happen with the expansion of species and the increased use of bulbs to showcase the borders both with very early and late seasonal flowering.

Crevice Gardens

Since my first article we have made some major progress with this format in the garden.

Firstly, we have constructed a new crevice garden to host New Zealand native species which has started to show a lot of progress over the last six months. The techniques used on the exotic Crevice Garden were a little severe for some of our native species and we have had to modify our planting technique accordingly. Over the next twelve months this garden will be well worth a visit.



7: Aerial shot of the rock garden

To link the New Zealand Crevice to the exotic Crevice, I have placed a rock path between them using the same strata for both gardens and path.

The original Crevice Garden now has a comprehensive range of species that we are adding and removing as we see how the varieties perform. Our aim is to grow cushioning and saxicolous plants; the key is not to be afraid to 'red card' species that don't fit this philosophy and will compromise the integrity of the garden and other plants in the garden.



8: The Crevice Garden from a drone

We are happy with the gardens progress and are very surprised with the adaptability we have experienced with a few traditionally hard to grow species and the time saving ease of management the garden offers. On average I would do about two hours maintenance per month across both gardens over the year.

In addition to the original crevice layout, we have made two additions to the garden and increased the planting area by approximately 15 square meters. We have also improved a couple of microclimates, increased our shade-loving plant habitats, and steeper free draining crevices as well as increasing the cacti and succulent area.

The Crevice Garden has offered a great deal of choice and interest.

Summary

As we progress through the facelift project, the increase in colour, texture and scent are really showing through, and we have seen a significant increase in visitors to these collections.

The comments have overall been very complimentary. The Old Rock Garden has really stood the test of time and the layout and stonework is as relevant today as it was back in 1939 when it was originally constructed. Well done Walter Brodie!

The only structural modification we have made to the Rock Garden is the area just behind the drinking fountain. I have raised the bed by creating a retaining wall on the side and a stone seat along the front for you to admire the vistas and ponder your thoughts.

Grant Matheson
Curator of the Rock and Crevice Garden



Articles

BOTANICAL LANGUAGE

It's generally accepted that interpretation in places like museums and botanic gardens cater for the average reading age of 11 to 12 years old. Thus, the reader can be deprived of terminology that can better define the subject and open up a bigger story.

Let's look at a few cases.....

Adaptive Radiation

One dictionary definition: *The diversification of a group of organisms into forms filling different ecological niches.*

Adaptive Radiation is the cornerstone of Darwinian evolution. Without it we *Homo sapiens* would be the same colour as our Rift Valley ancestors and still living there. Darwin first noted the phenomenon in the famous Galapagos finches although he didn't invent the term.

We have, arguably, the best example in the world of adaptive radiation in the group of plants we call hebes (now of course lumped back into the Genus *Veronica*) where from a single ancestor (resembling the weed, speedwell) we have

around 130 distinct species ranging from *V cupressoides* (the leafless whipcord) to the larger fleshy-leaved *V speciosa* and others. Simply put, they adapted as they radiated out from the original plant(s). The remarkable feature is that over the 130 species every graduation of leaf size and characteristic is evident – from soft herbs to woody trees and shrub as they adapted to 'ecological niches' from lowland forests to tough alpine screes. And the entire process was within New Zealand (with a couple of escapees to other places).

Another great example of adaptive radiation is our 'Daisy' family (Asteracea) that has species ranging from large woody *Olearias* to our famous vegetable sheep and hundreds of species in between.

Indigenous/Endemic.

Dictionary definitions:

Indigenous

Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

It is generally used on a country basis for example it could be indigenous in New Zealand,

and it could also be indigenous in, say, Australia.

Endemic

1. *(of a plant or animal) native and restricted to a certain place.*

2. *(of a disease or condition) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area.*

Folk do get confused with these two, not helped by epidemiologists giving 'endemic' a meaning similar to 'entrenched' or 'permanently established'. They can say that a disease is 'becoming endemic' as already we hear the epidemiologists talking about Covid becoming 'endemic' to the world.

A plant however is endemic to a particular area or country as the only place it grows naturally – it cannot *become* endemic.

The word, *endemic*, when applied to plants (and other living organisms) should always be followed by 'to' the area of its natural habitat. So, *Veronica strictissima* is endemic *to* Banks Peninsula which is of course within our city's boundaries so it could

also be described as endemic to Christchurch City.

Is this important or just interesting? It gives us some bragging rights — how many cities have seven endemic plants? More importantly, as their only natural habitat is within our city boundaries this gives us the responsibility to protect them and ensure their survival. And we must keep using the word *endemic* in its proper context for plants if only to retain its distinction from the medical usage.

For the record the other endemics are as follows: *Veronica lavaudiana*, synonym *Heliohebe lavaudiana* (the Friends logo); *Leptinella minor*, (The *Leptinella*'s remaining natural habitat is said to be about the size of the average living room.); *Celmisia mackaui*; *Festuca acta*; *Myosotis lytteltonensis*; and the fern *Tmesipteris horomaka*.

Convergent Evolution

A dictionary definition: *The independent development of similar traits or features in unrelated or distantly related species or lineages that typically occupy similar environments or ecological niches.*

Convergent evolution is common across the board in nature as fish, birds, animals, invertebrates, and plants, adapt in common, to common situations, in a way it's the opposite to adaptive radiation. Wikipedia lists 30 odd examples of plant convergencies but not, in my view, the most remarkable one — the '**divarication**' of about 60 species of our indigenous plants. Maybe this is because it is pretty much unique to New Zealand, mostly in Canterbury and our best kept secret.

Divarication

Dictionary definition:

Divaricate is a botanical term meaning 'spreading at a wide angle'. Plants are said to be divaricating when their growth form is such that each internode diverges widely from the previous internode producing an often tightly interlaced shrub or small tree. Of the 72 small leaved shrubs found on the Banks Peninsula some 38 are divaricating.

(This is from Wikipedia referencing Hugh Wilson of Hinewai Reserve, without doubt the world authority on 'divarication', and a marvellous living legend.)

Botanists seem to be challenged by the word 'divaricate' because not all the plants that look to the layman like 'divaricates' fit the 'widely diverging internode' description in the definition above. Hugh Wilson somewhat resolves this by using the term 'small-leaved, tangle-branched shrubs' for the extended group and 'divaricate' for the genuine 'widely diverging internode' group.

There are other factors that facilitate the form of the whole group such as the lack of a dominant leading shoot that most trees have (aka *apical dominance*) that control the competing 'leaders' by the production of auxins. The side branching is similarly restricted resulting in the dense tangled structure. Then it's up to the wind to finish the job.

There are two theories to account for 'divarication': the most colourful is that it was a protection against the grazing of moas, and the other is a response to the cold, strong grit-laden winds of the time when they were adapting to barren Canterbury braided river plains. The argument rages on and there's good reason to believe it could be a bit of both. Hugh Wilson (with

Tim Galloway) has written the only book focusing on 'divaricates' but because it spilled over to non-divaricating small-leaved plants it is called 'Small-leaved Shrubs of New Zealand'. In its introduction, Hugh gives a good account of the debates on terminology and of the origins of the phenomenon.

The facts are that around 60 New Zealand species have a 'divaricating' habit (but of these maybe 10 don't comply with the 'wide angle' definition). The remarkable factor is that they come from 16 different families which also have fully leaved species. Another unique feature is that an unusually high number of unrelated plants (nine species) have 'divarication' as a juvenile form, transitioning to adult foliage when they reach between two and three metres in height. (This is called heteroblasty.)

There are 38 species of 'divaricates' indigenous to Banks Peninsula i.e., within our city's boundary. To quote Hugh Wilson "*Canterbury is just about the world headquarters for the phenomenon*" so it is our word to claim and our story to tell. But we seem to have reached something of a hiatus as the word 'divarication' in all forms has become rather non-PC. It's not that it hasn't been around for a while — my copy of Cockayne's 1923 'The Cultivation of New Zealand Plants' lists *Pittosporum divaricatum*, *Plagianthus divaricatus*, and *Myrsine divaricata* as desirable garden plants.

In any case the unfortunate machinations over the word should not detract from its status as a remarkable example of convergent evolution. With 60 species from 16 families, it's up there with

the very best, possibly matched only by Mangroves.

What to do about the word? Use it, celebrate the 'divaricating' phenomenon, and remember that meaning follows usage in language development.

In the meantime, we can always check them out in their natural habitat on the Port Hills where they look far better than they can in sheltered city gardens. Drive to the Summit Road and walk along the Crater Rim track and you'll see plenty. Don't struggle with trying to identify them — Convergent evolution means they all look the same, (well, nearly the same). For the keen enquirer though, Hugh's book has an excellent forty one page identification key.

Alan Morgan

References

Small Leaved Shrubs of New Zealand. (Hugh Wilson and Tim Galloway, Manuka Press 1993)

Plant life on Banks Peninsula. (Hugh Wilson, Manuka Press 2003)

The Lonely Islands. (Terry Thomsen, Reed New Holland Publishers 2021)

The Cultivation of New Zealand Plants. (Leonard Cockayne, Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd 1923)



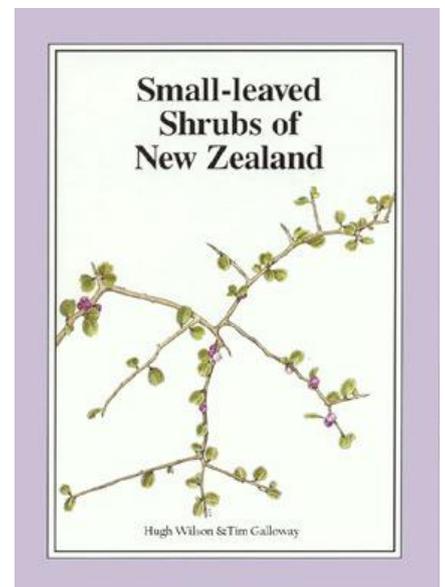
9: *Sophora prostrata*, prostrate kowhai on the Port hills. A classic divaricate. Possibly only one plant, meters across in both directions and maybe 100+ years old



11: Phantom trampers in the mist



10: *Myrsine divaricata*, (weeping mapou) in the Botanic Gardens



12: Hugh Wilson's book; Small Leaved Shrubs of New Zealand illustrated by Tim Galloway

Footnote: Medicine claims the word too as in *Recti divarication* when the abdominal muscles part company down the middle. Not a pretty sight. There's no reference to wide angle branching there!!

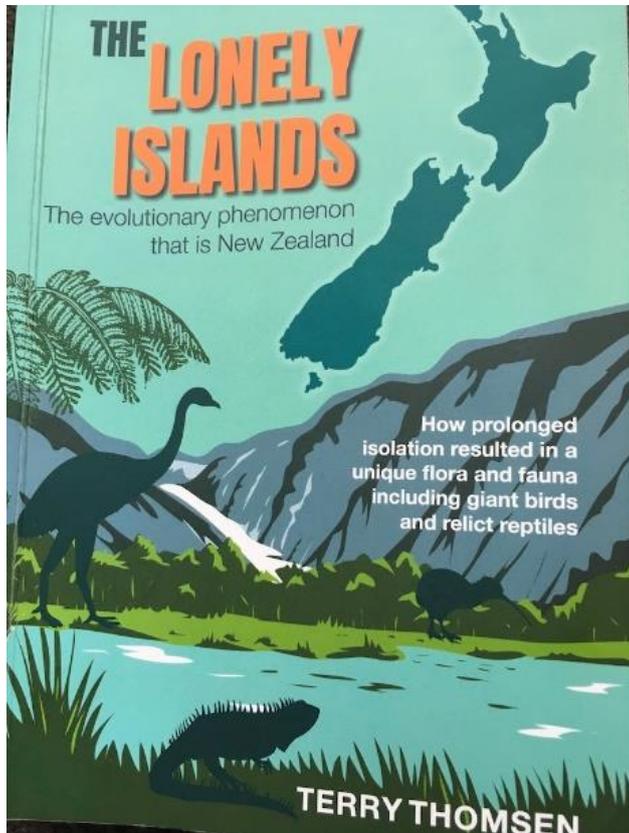
BOOK REVIEW

THE LONELY ISLANDS

The evolutionary phenomenon that is New Zealand

By Terry Thomsen

Reviewed by Alan Morgan



13: The Lonely Islands by Terry Thomsen

Ever since the voyage of Captain Cook in 1769 when on-board botanists Banks and Solander began the scientific investigation of New Zealand's natural history, work has been ongoing by many and varied scientists in teasing apart the complex and fascinating story.

The 'Gondwana' story is an evolving one both in the story line and in its telling. In 1990 David Bellamy (with Brian Springett and Peter Hayden) wrote 'Moa's Ark' based on the TV Series TVNZ made at the time. The title suggested that 'New Zealand' sailed away from the Gondwanan land mass with a full complement of our ancestral biota. We now know that most of our native life arrived more recently than that. The 'Moa's Ark' book is based on the many unique and spectacular stories of New Zealand that a befits a TV audience but not particularly useful in the bigger story.

In 2007 two books appeared to update the 1990 version. The first was 'In Search of Ancient New Zealand' written by Geologist/Palaeontologist Hamish Campbell and natural history writer Gerard Hutching and produced by GNS Science and 'Ghosts of Gondwana' by Professor George Gibbs,

an entomologist with a deep interest and knowledge in the evolution of all life in New Zealand.

The story has to be literally dug up from the ground. The geological story is told by the rocks and clues they contain: the chemistry, physical makeup and the bits of past lives they contain in the form of fossils, pollen grains and the like. The science is moving so fast that by 2014 George Gibbs saw fit to issue a revised and updated edition of Ghosts of Gondwana.

Following on from these excellent productions is Terry Thomsen's 'The Lonely Islands' published only in 2021. It packs it all in a very readable paperback.

The title 'The Lonely Islands' points to a fact often overlooked. Most island countries/states are close to their parent continent: Madagascar is 400km off Africa, Tasmania is 250km off Australia, Great Britain is swimming distance off Europe etc. New Zealand is 1600km off Australia and although we retain a small number of Gondwanan relicts, most of our fauna and flora is the result of long-distance dispersal and over greater distances than other islands.

Terry Thomsen is Christchurch based, a keen trumper and traveller. He has a lifelong interest in natural history, particularly ours and has studied extensively at both Lincoln and Canterbury Universities culminating in a MSc (with honours) in Botany. He describes himself as a Natural History Communicator and writer and runs specialist tours in natural history — (at least in pre Covid times). The quality of his research can be demonstrated by the listing of 726 references over 38 pages and an index extending over 16 pages.

The book has 16 chapters 'arranged thematically around the influences that gave rise to New Zealand natural life'. While it reads like a novel it is packed with an overwhelming amount of information. By letting the stuff that you don't need to know wash over you, the big picture emerges – and with the excellent index you always can go back to specifics. So, it's a book to own, not just a quick read.

Copies are available from good independent bookshops, including Scorpio Books, University Bookshop and Smiths in Christchurch. You can also contact Terry (terryth01@gmail.com) for a copy.

Footnote: A 'Gondwana Garden' has been in the 2007 long-term plans for the area between the children's playground and the river loop. In the past year the Friends guides have been doing a 'Gondwana' walk as one of the several themed

walks and it has been by far the most popular. Moves are afoot by the Christchurch City Council to appoint a designer for the 'Gondwana' area and for the redesign of the playground. The challenge, given the complexity of our natural history, is to decide what to do.

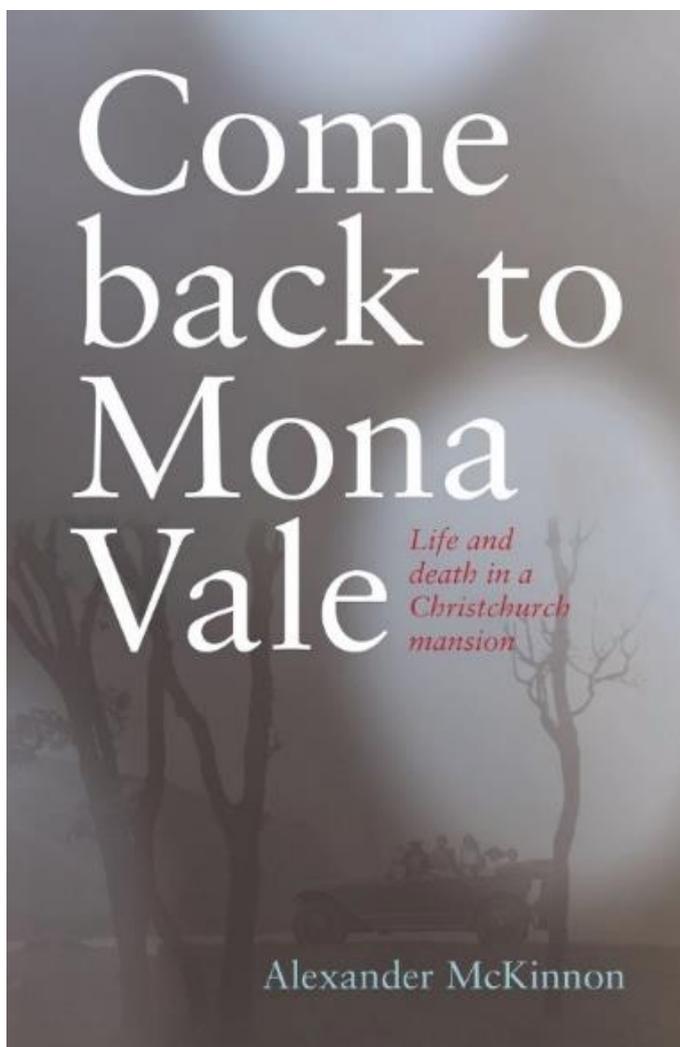
In 2008 the Friends organised and sponsored a workshop with top experts from around the country with the theme 'What is the Story – How do we tell it?' Of course our own natural history events, the earthquakes, got in the way and in view of the time lapse it needs a re-run. Terry has already been recruited to participate and like the rest of us, looking forward to it. Watch this space!

BOOK REVIEW

COME BACK TO MONA VALE

By Alexander McKinnon

Reviewed by Bernadette Hunt



14: Come Back to Mona Vale by Alexander McKinnon

This is the story of the last family to own Mona Vale and a dramatic tale it is too. I also found it to be a well-researched history and gave me a background to the people behind origins of the city. While a little longer than it needed to be, the family saga was gradually revealed perhaps at a similar pace to the unearthing of events by the author.

His family were well off, gentle refined people living in Fendalton with a beach house at Sumner and another in the Marlborough Sounds where they spent summers on their boat. The boys were educated at Christ's College in Christchurch. Their lifestyle was the result of the fortune built by Tracy Gough, the writer's great grandfather, the last private owner of Mona Vale and a business tycoon. Tracy's first wife, Julia, died mysteriously, and emotionally traumatic events affected other women in the family. Tracy remarried very soon after Julia's death. The painful details were kept as family secrets and not generally talked about to the younger generations.

Possibly the wider Christchurch society had an inkling though. When at school Alexander had a Master comment "*They're a rum lot, your mother's side of the family. What do you think of them? The problem is the money. No one ever says anything to them, even if they're wrong. Something not right there.*"

That would be enough to trigger further research in any family, to find out what actually happened as captured in this book ... Read on!

PEACE BELL UPDATE



15: New Zealand Peace bell and pavilion, Christchurch Botanic Gardens



16: Peace Bell ceremonial 'bell rope'

A working bee was held at the New Zealand World Peace Bell site on Saturday the 4th of December. Three members of the university arm of the Disarmament and Security Centre attended — all great workers. Wolfgang had supplied stain and cleaning materials. With David Bolam-Smith, Chair of the World Peace Bell New Zealand Chapter in attendance, we managed to apply a second coating of stain to the deck, and to clean down the stainless-steel posts. Christchurch City Council gardens staff had already applied the first coating of stain. It all looked much better and cared for after that.

We have started to talk about the need for re-etching the stepping pavers — the ones with “peace” in various languages — as they are almost indecipherable. We may investigate the colouring/staining technique employed on the concrete etching surrounding the Magnetic Observatory.

On Sunday the 12th of December an “Open Day” was held at the Peace Bell, whereby people were invited to come by and ring the bell and to learn about it. There was a steady intake of people who attended, and so it was a satisfying event. This event was advertised in both the Press and Star “What’s On” pages, and also the Botanic Gardens website and the Peace Bell website.

The next Bell ringing will be held on Thursday the 27th of January at 6:00 p.m. to commemorate United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day: an event organised by the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand.

VOLUNTEER GUIDING

Do you have a passion for plants and for the special place that is our Botanic Gardens here in Christchurch?

Perhaps you, or someone you know, would like to become a Volunteer Guide?

We want to grow the number of active guides to fulfil our role as ambassadors for the Gardens and carry out free daily walks from October to end of April. We have a great team who enjoy working and learning together with regular upskilling and training.

Find out more from Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Guiding Coordinator Susan Lawrence on 021 120 6258, susan.l@xtra.co.nz.



Contact Numbers

Committee

President	Jane Cowan-Harris	021 043 5342
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Penny Martin, Mary Carnegie, Vicki Steven, Nona Milburn, Susan Lawrence. Ray McTeigue.

Other Contacts

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Gardens enquiries: Information Centre 03 941 7590

Website: <https://friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz/>



Coming up at The Kiosk

Bot Tots

Mondays 10 - 11.30am (term time only)

Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. Drop-in during school term time (gold coin entry). [Facebook Event](#)

Green Thumbs Podcast

Monday 14 March 9am Plains FM96.9
Author, artist and blogger extraordinaire, Julia Atkinson-Dunn joins us to talk all things art and garden.

Garden Organic

Tuesdays 7-9pm, 15 March - 19 April and Saturday 2 April 9am - 1pm

Start your organics journey with national experts in the field from Lincoln University. Learn the principles of organic home gardening with this six week theory and practical course.

\$260 (\$325 non-members).

[Book online](#)

Winter Vegetable Growing

Thursday 31 March 7pm - 9pm

Discover a range of easy-to-grow winter crops, different varieties and their suitability for large veggie plots, mixed gardens or containers. However your home garden is designed, you'll go away with a workable plan and seeds to get you started.

\$40 (\$50 non-members).

[Book online](#)

Bulbs in Containers

Thursday 28 April 7-9pm

In this workshop run by Dave Adams you will learn how to successfully grow bulbs in containers as well as tips for their maintenance.

\$40 (\$50 non-members)

Includes potted bulbs to take home

[Book online](#)

Outdoor Propagation

Semi-hardwood Propagation

Thursday 24 March 7pm - 9pm

Master the art of cuttings and expand your plant collection this autumn. Semi-hardwood cuttings can be used to propagate a wide range of evergreen shrubs ranging from camellias, rhododendrons and hebes to popular herbs like bay, lavender, rosemary and thyme. **\$40** (\$50 non-members)

[Book online](#)



Friends of the Gardens are eligible for all CHS Member discounts!

When you make an online booking for a course or workshop just remember to select 'CHS Member' as the rate.