

Master copy (B)

# NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS INC

NO.11

PO BOX 237 CHRISTCHURCH

SPRING 1992

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August 26. Wednesday at 8pm Mr Rob Lucas of the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and member of the Wellington Friends of the Botanic Gardens will give an illustrated address on 'The Gondwana Legacy.' This meeting will be held in the P.C. Browne room at the Canterbury Hort. Society Buildings in south Hagley park. A cover charge of \$2 will be made to cover our room rental costs. This meeting is open to members and the general public, please ask your friends along.

September 12. Saturday at 10am. Merv Spurway, Brent Richards and Roy Edwards from the Dept. of Horticulture, Lincoln University will cover aspects of plant propagation. This will be at the Nursery at Lincoln University. If you can offer or need transport to Lincoln please phone Adrienne 3515 915

The official opening of the new POTTING SHED at the Botanic Gardens will be held in September. Members of the Friends will get the opportunity to see through this new facility at a later date.

September-Saturday 5th at 2pm. Visit to Woodlands Garden in Centaurus road. (See attached map) hosted by the Gillam family. Tea and scones will be provided. There will be a charge of \$2 going toward F.of B.G. funds. Please take only photographs while here and leave just your footprints!

## SPRING IS HERE

September-Sunday 6, 13 & 20. This will include a programme of guided walks, bulb sales and publicity about the Friends activities. Guided walks for Friends and members of the general public will be offered on each of the Sundays

leaving from the Information centre at 2.30pm. The Friends will have a stall near the band rotunda on 13 and 20 September to publicise our activities and sell potted bulbs to raise funds. Friends who are able to help with the stall and the walks please notify Adrienne, phone 3515 915.

October-Wednesday 14. Cottage Gardens. Well known advocate of cottage gardens Christine Dann will be discussing cottage gardens and cottage garden foods. This will be held in the Information Centre at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens at 7.30pm. Supper will be provided.

18 November. Wednesday 7.30pm. Fuchsias. Mr Bob Jump will be talking on Fuchsias - a popular garden subject. This meeting will be at the Information Centre of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

28 November. Saturday 10am -12am. Riccarton market day stall. Members of the 'Friends' will be operating a sales table during the morning in Riccarton road. Any plant donations for this sale will be welcome. Contact Adrienne for details phone 3515 915.

4 December. Friday at 4pm. A social function for staff of the Christchurch Botanic gardens and 'Friends'. This will be at the Information Centre of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. This event was a great success last year when the Friends and Garden's staff shared seasonal conviviality. The cost will be \$6. RSVP to Adrienne phone 3515 915. By Monday 30th November please.

## RECENT EVENTS

Sunday July 26 AGM and Floral art demonstration by Mrs Patricia Proctor. This afternoon was well attended by about seventy Friends

and after the business of the meeting was attended to Mrs Proctor gave a superb demonstration of what can be achieved with products of the winter garden. Patricia showed us the value of all sorts of garden material. From using your old apple prunings and a large chainsawed section of silver birch to adding the more beautiful Protea flowers. A long branch of witch hazel, add the large glossy *Magnolia grandiflora* leaves alongside the graceful *Restio tetraphyllus* and many other garden bits and pieces, somehow Patricia in a remarkably short time produced one magnificent floral display! An inspiration to all those in attendance. The afternoon concluded with afternoon tea. This afternoon also saw the last duties required of the outgoing President Dr Warwick Harris.

Saturday August 8 Walter Fielding - Cotterell and Dieter Steinegg both arborists for the Christchurch City Council gave a fascinating talk to a small, but receptive group of around twenty members. Unfortunately the weather that morning was probably not conducive to encouraging a larger group. Walter and Dieter covered topics such as selecting the right pruning tools, new theories on tree biology such as compartmentalisation from decay in trees. Many questions on how to prune, what to look for in young trees and selecting the right tree in the nursery were covered. Both Walter and Dieter approached the topic enthusiastically, with humour and with such a large and interesting topic could have easily taken much more time. A thought for another meeting!

#### THANK YOU WARWICK

Dr Warwick Harris was the first President of the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and as the constitution only allows any person to stay in the Presidential role for two years he was obliged to stand down. Warwick's professionalism showed through at

all times and by his quick grasp of the important issues directed the group well. We look forward to Warwick and Deirdre's company at future activities of the Friends, but for the meantime Warwick - enjoy your successes - for under your direction the Friends have grown to be a viable, friendly and successful group with a good blend of activities. Thank you also for keeping us all up to date by the production of the Newsletter. Thanks also to another outgoing Committee member Mr Hugh Miller. Hugh was able to assist with valuable advice at the stage when funds were being considered and finally donated to help provide lighting for the Information Centre.

#### THE NEW COMMITTEE

President: Roy Edwards 338 5969  
Vice President: David Given 3516 069  
Secretary: Adrienne Moore 3515 915  
Treasurer: Colin Neal 3518 676  
Members ex officio  
Warwick Scadden and Richard Doyle.  
Committee members:  
Daphne Banks, Fay Fleming, Bob Jump, Natalie Lofts, Peter Mahan, Neil O'Brien, Chris O'Sullivan, John Paterson, Patricia Poff, Ron Proctor, Bill Sykes, John Taylor and Max Visch.  
(Jane English -Info. Centre Roster)

#### TRAMS IN BOTANIC GARDENS

After discussion at the AGM on the 26 of July a letter was sent to Mr Hinman, Chairman of the Committee considering this project. The letter carried the unanimous views of those present that we strongly objected to any trams within the boundaries of the Botanic Gardens. Mr Hinman kindly replied on 18 August with a letter explaining that the route would not enter the Botanic Gardens, but at some future stage may enter Hagley park going near the carpark area, but not across the river into the Botanic Gardens. He has supplied a copy of the report on the trams which is available for members at the Information centre to peruse.

### NEW PROJECTS

The incoming committee have allocated funds to help improve the library for staff of the Botanic Gardens. A grant of \$400 was made to purchase the new Hortus 4. This is essential in order to keep abreast of name changes that occur. A grant of \$500 was also made to assist with the purchase of other books or journals. Further funds have been set aside for the purchase of a fridge for the potting shed for the storage of seeds. Money has also been allocated for the printing of a large banner to promote the Friends.

### GARDEN WALKS

Max Visch reports there has been good support for guided walks in the gardens in spite of the often cold conditions. Neil O'Brien, Peter Mahan and Chris O'Sullivan have also guided walks, each doing an excellent job and providing interesting historical information about the gardens. Daphne Banks has an excellent photographic record of the characteristics of bark as the result of one of Max's tours. There is a possibility of a photographic competition based on the gardens as a theme next year. Adrienne advises members to keep cameras ready for that prize winning shot. Walks for the remainder of the year are as follows. All start at 1.30pm  
Sat. 29 Aug. Mona Vale. Max Visch  
Meet in the carpark at Mona Vale.  
September 19 Spring flowering trees with Max Visch. BG. Info. Centre  
October 3rd. Flowering cherries & apples. Max Visch. BG Info Centre  
Oct 17. Colour in the rock garden. Malcom Shirlaw. BG Info. Centre  
Oct 31. Cockayne garden. - NZ native plants. Neil O'Brien. BG Inf Centre  
Nov 14. Abberley Park. Max Visch. Meet front entrance Abberley Park.  
Nov 28. Bog Garden. Max Visch. BG Info Centre.  
Dec 12. Herb Garden. Virginia Mc Naughton. BG Info Centre.  
Guided garden walks will resume again in February 1993.

### BOTANIC GARDENS' NEWS

The children's area is being upgraded and demonstration garden plots for primary schools are being set up with help from two schools. The Triskele Foundation have raised funds to build a drinking spa on the site of the old drinking fountain. This will be officially opened during the Spring Festival.

### CALENDARS

Copies of the new Botanic Gardens' Calendar are available at \$10 each from the Information Centre. These look really good and would make a great present.

### PERENNIALS

Perennials are on sale for members of the Friends on Friday 4 Sept. from 9-11am alongside the Bot. Gardens offices. Plants may be pre ordered. Plants will be on sale to the general public on Sat. 5th Sept. from 8.30am. If you can help with the selling, please phone Adrienne Moore. 3515 915

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not yet sent in your sub please send it as soon as possible. This year's sub is the same as last year \$10 single and \$15 double or family membership. Our financial year runs from July 1st 92 to 30 June 1993. Subs may be paid at Gardens' Information Centre.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

26 Aug. Gondwana Legacy  
29 Aug. Mona Vale  
5 Sep. Woodlands Garden  
6 Sep. Spring is here  
12 Sep. Plant Propagation (am)  
13 Sep. Spring is here  
19 Sep. Spring flowering trees  
20 Sep. Spring is here  
3 Oct. Flowering Cherries & apples  
14 Oct. Cottage gardens  
17 Oct. Colour in the rock garden  
31 Oct. Cockayne Garden  
14 Nov. Abberley Park  
18 Nov. Fuchsias  
28 Nov. Ricc. market day stall  
28 Nov. Bog Garden  
4 Dec. Friends & BG staff  
12 Dec. Herb Garden

sent with  
No 11.

Pinus wallichiana

Information prepared by Max Visch  
Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Commonly known as Bhutan pine, this was the species recently planted by his Holiness the Dalai Lama in the Pinetum of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens during his visit to Christchurch.

The Bhutan pine is a native of the Himalayas. It extends with some interruptions from Eastern Afghanistan to Upper Burma and Western Yunnan (China). It is a mountain pine favouring an altitude between 1800 and 3600 metres though occasionally descending to lower levels.

In the Western Himalayas P. wallichiana forms pure forests or occurs mixed with other conifers such as deodar cedar, Cedrus deodora, and the Chilgoza pine Pinus gerardiana. At somewhat lower levels in North Pakistan, Kashmir, and Northern India its associates are the Chir pine - Pinus roxburghii, oaks, maples and other broadleaf trees. To stress the fact that P. wallichiana is also native to Tibet - it should be mentioned that Kingdon Ward, the famous British plant collector, found P. wallichiana growing in the Zayul River gorge in South East Tibet in the company of Pinus khasya, oaks, maples and holly.

The Bhutan pine is very important to the peoples of the Himalayas. Next to the deodar cedar it is the tallest (up to 40 metres or more) and most important timber tree. The heartwood has a reddish colour and is very durable. It is used for general construction, indoor finishing, furniture, sleepers and fuel. A first class turpentine is obtained from its resin.

The species was introduced into Europe by Lambert as early as 1823 on account of its ornamental qualities. The trees vary considerably in the blueness of their foliage and a number of dwarf cultivars have become popular subjects for rock gardens.

The Bhutan pine is distinguished from other 5-leaved pines by its smooth and glaucous young shoots, the long, slender and spreading needles, and especially by the long (up to 27 cm), curved, cylindrical and very resinous female cones. They occur towards the ends of the shoots from which they are suspended on long stalks in groups of 1-3.

A well fruited, mature specimen of this tree may be seen on the bank of the Avon River near the small stone monument which marks the site where some of the first Canterbury settlers erected their huts in 1851.