

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS INC NO. 2

WINTER 1990

Editorial

The first *Newsletter* of the Society was sent out in May giving details of the first Management Committee Meeting and an invitation to the first members meeting. Since that time it has been decided to start a Quarterly Newsletter of the "Friends" and I am hastily putting this together particularly with the help of Adrienne Moore, Secretary of the Society.

There is a good prospect of developing this *Newsletter* further to tell members about events in the Botanic Gardens, activities of "Friends" and items of interest about horticulture and plants. Both Adrienne and myself will be pleased to receive items from the Friends to include in the Spring Newsletter. We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to take on what would be the interesting task of being the Editor for future Newsletters.

Warwick Harris
President

Activities

Friday, 13 July, 7.30 pm, Botanic Gardens Information Centre, *Mystical Plants* - A talk by John Palmer.

John Palmer, botanist, agronomist and bookseller, known to his former colleagues at DSIR as the 'medicine man', has offered to lift us out of the dreariness of mid-winter by a talk on *Mystical Plants*. John says he has done a lot of research on this subject lately, some of which suggests that those unfortunate ladies who got branded as witches in days past were really botanists who knew more about plants than was good for them.

He will bring along a selection of books for perusal and there will be plants for sale. A light supper will be served.

The carpark across the bridge from the kiosk will be open and lighting to the area is to be arranged.

Project

Talking about lighting is a reminder of an important item on the agenda of the Society's committee meeting which was held on Sunday, 10 June. A key purpose of the "Friends" is to carry out projects which help the objectives of the Gardens. It was proposed that one of the specimen trees on the Rolleston Ave front could be lit up to effect. Committee members talked this

through and came up with the modified proposal to provide lighting in the approaches to the Information Centre. Committee members Ron Proctor and Hugh Miller are to investigate a lighting arrangement and the cost estimate will provide the target for fund raising for the first project.

Introducing Richard Doyle

Richard Doyle is the Education Officer, Technical Services, Parks Unit. He believes his appointment reflects the increasing public demand for information and education on all aspects of horticulture. Richard sees the Christchurch Botanic Gardens as having the potential to be a major educational centre for Christchurch and Canterbury in horticultural and botanical matters.

His position of Education Officer is a new one created after restructuring within the Technical Service Division of the Parks Unit. He served his apprenticeship within the Park's Department and then travelled widely overseas before returning to continue with National Diploma studies in horticulture to thesis level.

Richard's primary responsibility is to run the Information Centre to benefit Garden visitors, providing educational displays, publications, lectures and tours. His responsibility covers other areas of horticultural interest including Riccarton Bush and Victoria Park.

Obviously in appointing Richard as Education Officer the Christchurch Botanic Gardens are encouraging the use of this major resource by both the local community and by visitors from outside the city.

Loder Cup for City Botanist

People who know anything of the work of Dr Brian Molloy will acknowledge him as the very worthy winner of the Loder Cup for 1990. This premier national award for contributions to conservation will be presented at the 'Natives and Conservation for the 90's' Symposium being held at Tauranga from 31 July to 2 August 1990. This is being hailed as a major horticultural - conservation event for the sesquicentennial year. Local botanists are featuring largely in this event with presentations from David Given on Rare and Endangered plants, Phil Garnock-Jones on *Hebes*, Murray

Parsons on the Ethnobotanical Garden Project in Auckland, and Warwick Harris on Native Plants in Europe.

Looking forward to Spring?

Mark your calendars for these events organised by the "Friends".

Plant Propagation Demonstration and Workshop
Saturday, 25 August, 10 am. Meet at Gardens Information Centre. Roy Edwards, Lincoln University is working to make this a worthwhile event where you will also pick up some useful additions for your garden.

"Wake up to Spring"

Sunday, 30 September, 8.30 am. Botanic Gardens Information Centre. For a delicious breakfast and a time for a walk in the Gardens in the freshness of a spring morning. Breakfast will be \$3. Please RSVP to Adrienne Moore, Phone 3-515-915 by 21 September to indicate numbers for catering.

For the Organically Minded

By buying leaf mould, compost and animal manure at \$15 a trailer load you can help the City's Parks and Gardens and your own garden at the same time. This organic material will be available at a location off Riccarton Avenue on Saturdays 21 July, 28 July and 4 August from 8 to 11.30 am.

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History of Christchurch Botanic Garden

Curator Warwick Scadden spoke of the milestones and personalities in the history of the Garden when he addressed the meeting of the "Friends" on June 10. Copies of his talk will be available for a small charge at the July 13 meeting.

After his talk, and time to enjoy tea and a chat, Warwick Scadden led the "Friends" outdoors into a chill (7.6° maximum for the day), damp afternoon. To mark the occasion of the first meeting of the Friends, Warwick Harris, with a lot of previous help, planted an *Acer nikoense* on the Pott's lawn. A native wood pigeon added to the witnesses to this occasion. The group took a brisk walk to the Albert Edward Oak planted in 1863, the site of the first fruit hatchery in Canterbury, the Cockayne native plant garden and the relic of the first planting of native plants. The meeting was a successful start with about 40 members attending.

Fragrant Garden

Construction is underway for this new garden to the west of Cunningham House. Raised planter

beds and a pergola will display plants notable for the fragrance of their flowers, leaves and bark. The Altrusa Club is co-ordinating the funding of this project on behalf of Women's Service groups in Canterbury.

Do you have a carpet square to spare?

Richard Doyle is making the Gardens an exciting and interesting place for visiting groups of children. He has the very good idea that a carpet square would make much cosier seating for these youngsters than the chairs designed for grownups. If you have a carpet square made redundant by your wall to wall carpeting, phone Richard at 3-661-701 ext 831.

1990 Horticultural Lectures and Demonstrations

- Saturday August 4: Trees and Shrubs for hot dry situations - Brent Smith
- Saturday September 1: Raising Plants from Seed - Wayne Dering
- Saturday October 6: Old fashioned roses - Richard Doyle

REMEMBER BLACK FRIDAY JULY 13 - MYSTICAL PLANTS