

# NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS INC.  
NO. 19 P.O. BOX 237 CHRISTCHURCH SPRING 1994

## President's Notes

As I write this it is one of the first of the really fine spring days. Spring flowers are emerging from the ground and on shrubs and trees buds are swelling fast. It is a time of growth and newness, and a time of variety in form and colour. I cannot help thinking that this also tells me something of the Friends over the last four years. From small beginnings and a series of planning meetings the society has developed into a robust organization with an increasing array of activities in response to the needs of its members and of the botanic gardens.

But any group such as the Friends is no more than its members. It will remain fresh and growing as long as its members want it to. It will respond to varied issues and needs as long as its membership draws on the variety of people our city can offer. I see a wide range of talent, experience and interest as vital to the well-being of the Friends. Variety and difference are positive - we need them to grow and prosper.

This offers a challenge for our botanic gardens and for the Garden City as a whole. Increasing numbers of visitors to Christchurch will bring demands for an increasing range of experiences. We must be prepared to think through and debate such issues, as well as changing demands of education, leisure and recreation. Each will impact in different ways on the Botanic Gardens and on the Friends - this is where we need the variety of experience which you can offer.

I would like to thank those members of the Committee who are retiring from office: W Sykes, J Taylor, N O'Brien, P Poff, N Lofts - all have played a valuable role in the direction and organization of the Friends. We are particularly grateful to Roy Edwards for his assiduous work and leadership during his two years as President, and to Adrienne Moore who is our retiring Secretary. Some may not realise that Adrienne has been Secretary from the inception of the Friends, providing the essential backup and organization to see that things run

smoothly. I also welcome the new Committee members: T. Burnett, S. Molloy, and C. Christie and Ruby Coleman as Membership Secretary.

David Given.

## FUND RAISING

Potpourri If you wish to contribute ingredients, and/or be involved with this project please phone Adrienne, 3515915. We propose to make more potpourri from Spring onwards. A large quantity of material is needed. Some of the plants most valuable for our mix are; cornflowers, delphiniums, larkspur, lavender, scented geraniums, lemon verbena, whole miniature roses, (e.g. the Fairy), hydrangeas.

## Sales Table

Contributions of plants, produce, or other saleable items are welcome for the sales table at each meeting. Any saleable items such as baking, garden magazines etc. are welcome. Proceeds from this table, our raffles and sales of bookmarks, and stickers for use in recycling envelopes, all help in keeping our subs low. Your support is appreciated.

## Friends' Leaflets

A selection of specially prepared leaflets on topics such as Magnolias, Viburnums, Plant Propagation, etc. are for sale at .50c from the Info. Centre.

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is given to recent new members; Eileen Horan, Mrs D Ayers, Joan Hamilton, Virginia Thomas, Leicester and Margot Fulford, Estelle Henry, Janie Brownlee, Dorothy Lake, John Ottley, Jason Tylanakis, Valerie Cox, Ron Felzer (USA), Mary Ballisat, Dorothy Strathdee.

## RECENT EVENTS

On Sat 4 June A group of interested walkers met with Max to look at conifer treasures in the Gardens. This was an interesting and valuable exercise for all involved.

**On Sat. 19 June** at 3pm in the BG Info Centre a mid winter social afternoon was held. Richard Doyle showed a series of old lantern slides. These provided an historic glimpse of the Botanic Gardens from an early slide collection. This was followed by afternoon tea. Thanks to all who provided cakes, biscuits, sandwiches and the like and to those who coordinated the effort. A good afternoon was had by all.

The morning tea and walk for new members was held on **Sat 25 June**. Fifty three members attended, and Richard Doyle gave an introduction to the Gardens and led the "Behind the Scenes Walk". Thank you Richard. Two student members John Ottley, and Jason Tylanakis, joined at this meeting, and we are really pleased to welcome them as our youngest members. The age range of our members is now 68 years!

**On Saturday 16 July**. Max Visch led a group on a walk looking at historic places and plants in the Gardens. This was another very successful walk with about 20 interested walkers in the group.

#### **Sunday 31 July. Annual General Meeting.**

Forty nine people attended the AGM. After the business of the meeting, David Given showed a fascinating selection of slides and talked about his recent visit to Taiwan.

Afternoon tea was provided by members and again coordinated by Natalie Lofts. Once again our thanks to Natalie and her team for all their efforts.

#### **Quiz Evening**

On Wednesday 17th August at the Information Centre - Teams of competitors, made up of Friends and some Botanic Gardens staff as well as the Curator Warwick Scadden were challenged on their knowledge of the Botanic Gardens and related plant issues as well as some of the history of the Gardens. The Quiz Master for the night was Kevin Garnett. Teams were made up on the night and those suspected of having any sort of advantage were spread around other teams. The evening was a great success with Kevin Garnett being a superb quiz master, nearly sixty people were involved. Roy Edwards made up the quiz with

the format based on what the Dunedin Friends had done at an earlier date. Prizes of plants and small chocolate bars were presented for a great many categories. This type of evening will be repeated again.

#### **South Canterbury Tour 15-16th October**

Bob Peers has arranged accommodation, and garden visits for our tour. Travel will be by car. All interested are invited to a meeting on Thursday 25 August at 10 am in the BG Information Centre to discuss plans. Please phone Bob Peers Phone 3516776, if you are interested to travel with us but not able to attend this meeting. Thank you Bob from the Ashburton Trippers!

**NOTE:** Bob Crowder is organising the IFOAM conference to be held at Lincoln University in December 1994. There will be a large contingent of International speakers present as well as local ones. If you wish to know more about the conference contact Bob at Lincoln University. ph 3252 811.

#### **Future Walks and Talks**

**Tue 6 Sept Walk** from Info Centre at 9.0am

#### **'Cleanup the World' Sat. 17 Sept**

The Friends will take part in the Worldwide effort by Volunteer groups to clean up the world! Our little corner of the world is the area of Hagley Park from Nancy's corner, along Riccarton Ave to the College Sports Grounds. Please ring Faye on 3517798 if you can help. **Helpers to meet at 9.0am** in the United Tennis Courts carpark area.

**MonaVale Walk Sat 17 Sept with Max Visch**  
Meet in MonaVale carpark at 1.30pm.

**Wed 21 Sept at 7.30pm in BG Info Centre**  
**Des Riach will present - Spring Bulbs A Mixed Bunch.** Des is an expert, well known in Horticultural circles for his wide knowledge of all sorts of interesting and rare plants. Make sure you mark this in your diary ...now !

### Botanic Gardens' Spring Fete

Sat. 1 Oct. from 9.0am, around the Kiosk / Info centre courtyard. (Held Sun 2 Oct. if Saturday is wet)

Please remember to pot up interesting and unusual plants from your garden to stock the Friends' stall. . Please prepare plants now so that they look well for Fete day. Other saleable items welcome. Plants from the Gardens will also be sold, e.g choice herbaceous perennials, indoor plants, trees, and shrubs. Friends' help will be needed for the stalls as last year. Phone Faye Fleming if you have not already offered help with plant work, and selling on the Fete day. Some of the excess plants grown from seeds from the Index Seminum (Seed from overseas) include *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Bessoniana' an American cultivar and *Cercidiphyllum japonica* var. *magnifica* from Japan. Other interesting and unusual plants will be offered for sale.

Special sale day for Members of the Friends. Members only will be offered perennials from the BG at \$1 less than the usual price, at a special sale from 10.0am till 2.0pm on Friday 23 Sept, from the Shadehouse adjacent to the BG main Office. Selection includes Hostas hellebores, etc. No pre-orders will be taken this year. Enquiries to Wendy Bell, Mon to Thu 10.0am till 4.0pm on 3661701. No discounts will be offered on the Fete Day.

### Other future events

A Guided Walk to enjoy the Azaleas in the Botanic Gardens will be led by Geoff Bryant on Tues. 4 October from the Information Centre at 10.00am. Geoff is the author of several books including - Gardens for Free, and The Azalea Growers' Handbook.

No Saturday afternoon walk in October due to Fete and trip away to Sth Canterbury.

Walk Sat 12 Nov 1.30pm from BG Info Centre The Water Garden with Max Visch NB change to 2nd Saturday of month due Rose Convention.

Wed 16 November 7.15pm at Info Centre Virginia McNaughton Culinary Herbs a Gourmet's delight Herb sale. NB earlier time

Fri 2 Dec 4.30pm at Info Centre Christmas Social with BG Staff

### International Rose Convention

18/27 November 1994

Garden Visits. Please set aside SUNDAY afternoon 4 December for a visit to members' gardens in the Sumner area. Note this was incorrectly advertised as Saturday in the last Newsletter - apologies...More details later.

### Advanced Notice - Photo Competition

This is early notice that in or about April 1995 there will be a photographic competition for members of the Friends only. This will include both prints and slides and will involve a number of categories: (1) Plants in the Botanic Gardens, (2) People in the Botanic Gardens, (3) Landscapes and seasons in the Botanic Gardens, and (4) A more general theme relating to the World of plants (including wild or unrestrained plant studies, people using plants, plantscapes etc.). Both prints and colour slides will be eligible. Entries will probably be required one month before the exhibition night. Prizes will be awarded in a number of categories. Other details in relation to the Photographic Competition will be out in the next Newsletter. For further information contact David Given ph 351 6069.

### Videos at the Information Centre

When the weather is not encouraging for walking in the Gardens, members can still enjoy learning about the Gardens by watching the videos at the Information Centre. Help is available there if you are unfamiliar with how to use the video.

### Glasshouse Notes

The glasshouse seems to be a busy place with a number of people growing things. Just a reminder though - grow one plant for you and two for the October Fete! For further information about the Friends' glasshouse contact Chris Christie ph. 3324 246

### Is This A Record?

(A contribution from Adrienne Moore)  
One of our Information Centre volunteers, Margaret Royds, has been visiting the Botanic Gardens for 80 years! As a young girl, of about 4 years old, she was photographed on the paving in front of the *Pinus pinaster* on the pine



mound, wearing a coat with a velvet collar and cuffs, boots, and a woollen hat over her long fair hair. Margaret remembers regular visits to the gardens. Her father was Dr TA MacGibbon, a Surgeon at the Public Hospital. Her family lived in Armagh St, and then in Oxford Terrace at the corner of Antigua St. The children were taken on walks to the Botanic Gardens, often by their nurse/girl (nanny). Margaret would walk, in her boots, and her sister and brother riding a tricycle, and in the pram. They crossed the boat shed bridge and often met up with other children and their nurse/girls. It seems as if the Archery Lawn was a meeting place for the nurse/girls and their young men! Their young charges were allowed to explore the Gardens rather freely, except over the bridges!

Early memories include getting her boots dirty, and how hard they were to get off; Mr Young in the Curator's house; daffodils and bulbs alongside Rolleston Ave.; the native area being planted; swinging on a very large macrocarpa; the herbaceous border; the shingle being dug out to make the ponds; boats on the Avon; model yachts on the lake 'over the red bridge'; the Band Rotunda; the Tea Kiosk surrounded by trellis with climbing plants around it; (the Kiosk was not used in winter).. Later memories are of being present when the Prince of Wales planted the kauri on the Archery Lawn in 1920; the opening of the Cuninghame House in 1923; and the Peacock Fountain playing on the Archery Lawn.

On wet days instead of going to the Gardens, the children were taken to the Museum where the drawers of insects were a great attraction. Sometimes an alternative way home was across the woodland bridge to see the aviaries, and the trout in the hatchery, then past the Hospital to their home. When the family moved to Ilam Rd (Riccarton Rd end), visits to the Gardens were still enjoyed especially when their Grandfather came every three years from Scotland. He was a great teacher, and was interested in the birdlife in the gardens.

After leaving school Margaret trained as a teacher, and after her marriage lived on a farm at the corner of what is now Memorial Ave., and Roydvale Ave. She continued the family tradition of regular visits to the gardens, with her own children. At that time the children's

pool had an earth bottom. On one occasion a young lad visiting with Margaret's children, became over enthusiastic when chasing the ducks, fell into the dirty slimy mud, and was covered top to toe! Margaret is now an enthusiastic member of our team of volunteers at the Information Centre, where she can share her wide knowledge and experience of the gardens, and the treasures there.

#### New Committee List for 1994/5

**President:** David Given

**Vice President:** Faye Fleming

**Immediate Past President:** Roy Edwards

**Secretary:** Yet to be appointed.

**Treasurer:** Colin Neal,

**Catering coordinator:** Daphne Banks,

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Faye Fleming,

**Newsletter:** (articles etc) Chris Christie and Peter Mahan

**Walks:** Max Visch,

**Programme:** David Given/ Roy Edwards,

**Raffles:** Stewart Filshie

**Glasshouse:** Chris Christie / Max Visch

**Sales Table / Potpourri:** Adrienne Moore,

**Reception:** Chris O'Sullivan,

**Technical Coordinator:** Richard Doyle,

**Fund raising & Projects:** J Paterson / S.Molloy,

**Promotion:** David Given

#### Non Committee Positions

**Information Centre Volunteers:** Jane English /

**Bob Peers, Membership Secretary:** Ruby

**Coleman, Tours away:** Bob Peers, Newsletter

**Dispatch Coordinators:** Margaret Mitchell,

**Sally Jebson, Ailsa Morrow, Seed work**

**Coordinator:** Betty Harvey.

Botanic Gardens News Andrew Hodge recently spoke at one of our Tues morning walks about the Integrated Pest Management programme used at the Gardens. No toxic sprays are being used in the propagating houses. Minute imported wasps are gobbling up the Whitefly! More about this again.

#### Averil Biddick Memorial tree planting

A *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem' has been planted beside the Information Centre Pond, near the seat donated by Averil. Her donation of a collection of Kerry Carmen's Wylde Green Violets is also nearby. The tree was planted by representatives of Averil's family, the Botanic

Gardens' Staff, and Friends of the Gardens. Averil worked at the Gardens for 17 years, and during her time as receptionist in the Information Centre, she introduced many new members to our group. The clock in the Information Centre was given by the Friends in her memory. At the planting ceremony, the Curator Warwick Scadden quoted the following from A.C. Benson "I have grown to believe that the one thing worth aiming at is simplicity of heart and life; that the world is a very beautiful place, that congenial labour is the secret of happiness".

#### News from other Friends

Newsletters have arrived recently from Friends in Honolulu, Chicago, Melbourne, Auckland, Hamilton and Dunedin. These will be held in Friends' file at Info Centre Reception

#### Note from our former Secretary - Adrienne Moore

Since being elected to the Friends' committee in Nov 1989, then becoming Secretary, I have enjoyed learning a great deal more about the Gardens from the BG Staff and members of the Friends. All these people have a special interest in and love for the Gardens, and this has brought people together in our group, from many different backgrounds and ages. I believe this is one of the strengths of our Society. There is a vast amount of knowledge amongst our members that can be shared when on a walk, potting up plants, cleaning seeds, mailing out newsletters, helping in the Information Centre, and over a cup of tea. I look forward to continuing opportunities for us all, for more education about the Gardens and plant collections there. We are part of a growing network of Friends' groups. The support I have received especially when arranging volunteers for our projects, has been very much appreciated. I urge members to complete the reverse of our Membership form each year, to show what support you can offer. (Please phone Faye Fleming our new volunteers' Coordinator, if you forgot to do this 3517798 ) This keeps our lists up to date.

Other opportunities for Friends to help, will be coordinated by the non Committee members listed above. At the time of writing we still need a Secretary to be the first point of contact, to handle general enquiries, and

administration, record Committee and AGM minutes, attend to correspondence, and generally coordinate activities. In spite of many enquiries to members, no one has yet volunteered. Please phone me 3515915. or D. Given on 3516069, if you can help. Our new Secretary will be offered all possible help.

My special thanks go to Warwick Harris, and Roy Edwards, (former Presidents), to all those who worked on our Committees, to Warwick Scadden and Richard Doyle, and other Botanic Gardens' Staff, and members. All have been most supportive to me. Thank you for the beautiful flowers presented at the AGM.

AGM resolutions At the AGM on the 31st of July the following resolutions were passed by the members present.

- a) A rule change to enable the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens to gain donee status as a Non Profit or Charitable Organization. Colin Neal is now making the necessary arrangements with Inland Revenue Department to see this is acted upon.
- b) The addition of Immediate Past President to the Management Committee. This rule change will be added to the rules of the Friends.

Index Seminum Sue Molloy has asked me to pass on her thanks to all seed work helpers on a job well done.

Subscriptions. Thank you to all those who have already paid their 94/95 subscription. Our reminder that subs are due (1 July each year), is the Sub renewal form sent with the AGM papers. Please pay promptly and return the sub renewal card completed on both sides, to PO Box 237, Christchurch

#### New Parking Arrangements

When parking for longer than 3 hours, in the Armagh St, or United Tennis Ct. carparks, visitors to the Gardens and Hagley Park, are requested to collect a parking permit from the Information centre. This permit to be displayed on your car's dashboard. No permits required for less than 3 hours, or for Friends' evening meetings (New City Council requirements.) Nb. Please use the Armagh Street entrance to the car park for evening meetings at the Botanic Gardens. Gates will be open.

**New Committee - Contact numbers**

<b><u>President</u></b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Work</b>
<b>David Given</b>	<b>3516 069</b>	<b>3252 811</b>
<b><u>Immediate Past President</u></b>		
<b>Roy Edwards</b>	<b>3385 969</b>	<b>3252 811</b>
<b><u>Vice President</u></b>		
<b>Faye Fleming</b>	<b>3517 798</b>	
<b><u>Membership Secretary</u></b>		
<b>Ruby Coleman</b>	<b>3558 811</b>	
<b><u>Minutes Secretary</u> Vacancy</b>		

**Treasurer**

<b>Colin Neal</b>	<b>3518 676</b>	<b>3794 100</b>
<b><u>Catering Coordinator</u></b>		<b>Daphne Banks 3558399</b>
<b><u>Walks</u></b>		<b>Max Visch 3382 273</b>
<b><u>Info. Ctre Helpers</u></b>		<b>Jane English 3555 289</b>
<b><u>Tours Coordinator</u></b>		<b>Bob Peers 3516776</b>

**Thanks**

**Thanks to Adrienne Moore & David Given for contributions to this edition of the Newsletter.  
Roy Edwards - Editor.**

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**Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Inc  
PO Box 237 Christchurch**