

Newsletter

For Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Inc
To Promote, Protect, & Preserve

No 46, Autumn 2001

Feb

President's Comment

INSIDE

1 President's comment

Although much of our holidays was spent doing the traditional New Zealand summer activities often centred around water, we did manage to drag the kids to a couple of places that didn't involve exposing our bodies to the sun's rays.

2 Coming Events

Two of the most rewarding were the Magnum exhibition at Te Papa and a visit to the Otari native Botanic Gardens on the northern margins of Wellington.

3 Recent Events

Otari is a collection of native plants with about five hectares set aside for the plant collection and over 90 hectares of regenerating and original conifer broadleaf forest. With approximately 1200 species and cultivars, much of your time can be spent wandering around the plant collection or, as we did, explore the forest area on the numerous walking tracks.

9 Tribute

Leonard Cockayne and his wife are buried in the gardens.

Wellington City Council administers the site and they have built a good information centre. Nearby is a very impressive canopy walkway linking the two main gardens areas. With twice the annual rainfall we have in Christchurch the forest vegetation is lush and varied which in turn provides for a diversity of bird life.

Otari is well worth a visit if you're in Wellington. It shows that a city of Wellington's size (smaller than Christchurch) can have more than one Botanic Gardens.

11 Friends Jottings

Unfortunately we have had to recently acknowledge 'Friends' who are for one reason or another having to step down from being actively involved in the FOBG. Chris O'Sullivan and Richard Doyle are stepping down after many years helping with a wide range of activities. Richard and Chris have made some big decisions and, although different, are setting out on new adventures in their lives. Both will be missed not just because of the work they did but also they were wonderful characters, thank you both.

12 General Information

The gardens and reserve have an interesting history, from early Maori use of the area for hunting, to European forestry and clearing for farming. Eventually the remaining bush was fenced and protected.

In 1926 Dr Leonard Cockayne and J. G. McKenzie established the Botanic gardens. As well as conserving the remnants of native bush the site was to be used to teach people about our native plants and their use in horticulture. Dr

Dennis Preston
President

FCBG

PO Box 2553
Christchurch

Recent Events

(So interesting it was decided to print it in full. Editor.)

A Three Garden Bus Trip

On Monday the 9th October 2000 thirty-two Friends of the Botanic Gardens and their friends began our day trip by bus in beautiful sunny and warm weather that fortunately lasted the whole day.

Our first call was to Terrace Station, the home of Richard and Kate Foster near Hororata. Kate Foster, whose great grandfather was Sir John Hall the owner of the Station from 1862, came onto our bus to welcome us and escort us up the long drive and then through her historic garden. Sir John Hall, a Yorkshire man who had arrived in Lyttleton on the 31st July 1852, was one of the leading figures in nineteenth century New Zealand politics and arrived from England with his wife, Rose, and their children to take up residence in the Station in the 1860s. They altered the homestead to meet the needs of their family of five children, but John Hall's main interest was the establishment of plantations and shelterbelts for the estate in one of the windiest places in Canterbury. 9,800 young plants were purchased in 1891 and over 113 hectares of trees were planted. Sir John Hall was prime Minister between 1879 and 1882 but in spite of his busy political life and long stays in the UK he instructed his Manager, Mr J.E. Fountaine to continue to plant more native trees and shrubs.

As we travelled along the drive we were shown plantings of oaks and pines, the Wellingtonia's and cedars planted in the 1890's, the hills planted with groups of trees, carefully situated, so as not to block the views. After we were able to wander around her delightful wild

garden which she worried about showing to a group of gardeners. She called her garden "Kate's Place" and it certainly had a charm of its own which we loved. We were not too embarrassed to accept her fork to dig up and help ourselves to roots of a very pretty yellow violet. Souvenir hunters!

Every plant appeared to be in flower. We enjoyed seeing bluebells, forget-me-nots, primroses, violets, aquilegias, hellebores, white and purple honesty, rhododendrons, azaleas and many trees in such a natural setting. Her rose garden, framed by a tall arch of the holly hedge planted in 1876, was not yet in flower but nearby we were delighted to see the old medlar with its two layered babies doing well. We progressed up the broad grass walk onto the large open lawn in front of the house; Bill Sykes and Max Visch assisted our progress through the garden in identifying plants and trees for us. Kate Foster gave us a short history of the house showing us plans of the additions and old photos and then we were shown into some rooms of the original part of the house with the high ceilings and panelled walls, one room lined with shelves of Sir John Hall's books. On the table Kate Foster had displayed a hundred year old journal, containing instructions from John Hall for his gardeners when he was in the UK and lists of trees, old catalogues and books. In the hall there was a collection of Maori carvings that John Hall had bought or had received as gifts.

For the future Kate and Richard Foster are setting up a charitable trust so that Terrace Station may be a Historic Place for New Zealand for ever and they will no doubt need volunteers to help in the garden.

Our next visit was to Homebush, near Darfield. We were welcomed by Louise Deans who be-

Coming Events

March 2nd	Friday 2 p.m. Mona Vale car park near the Rose Garden	Walk	Mona Vale visit with gardener. BYO afternoon tea or make your own arrangements with Mona Vale Homestead
March 6th	Tuesday 9 a.m. Information Centre	Walk	<i>Bedding Schemes</i> with Louise Morgan of B.G. Staff
March 21st	Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Information Centre	Talk	<i>Highlights of the Butchart Garden and the World Heritage Parks of the Canadian Rockies</i> by Tony Burnett
March 24th	Saturday 1.30 p.m. Museum Entrance	Walk	<i>Walk around Curator's House and Gardens</i> with Louise Morgan of B.G. Staff
April 3rd	Tuesday 9 a.m. Information Centre	Walk	<i>Section C developments, a walk about looking at new and exiting projects</i> with Richard Poole
April 4th	Wednesday 1.45 p.m. Information Centre	Walk	<i>Ferns in the Botanic Gardens Fern House</i> with Mark Davis. Afternoon tea to follow. Note earlier time.
April 18th	Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Information Centre	Talk	<i>Setting up the Addington Bush Trust and Internet Site</i> by Mike Peters
April 21st	Saturday 1.30 p.m. Information Centre	Walk	<i>Autumn Highlights</i> with Max Visch
May 1st	Saturday 1.30 p.m. Information Centre	Walk	<i>The Pinetum, a walk amongst the trees and along the Camellia Walk</i> with Dean Pendrigh
May 3rd	Thursday 1.45 p.m. Information Centre	Talk	<i>Sprays and Fertilisers</i> by Kevin Garnett. Afternoon tea to follow. Note earlier time.
May 16th	Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Information Centre	Talk	<i>Selected Plant Families of Nepalese Wild Flowers</i> by Dr W Sykes
May 19th	Saturday 1.30 p.m. Information Centre	Walk	<i>Plants for Dry Gardens</i> with Neil O'Brien
June 5th	Tuesday 9 a.m. Meteorological station	Walk	<i>Weather or Not Identifying and recording weather patterns and a look at the instruments used for those purposes</i> with Brian Appleton
June 23rd	Saturday 1.30 p.m. Information Centre	Walk	<i>Monkey Puzzels and Bunya's</i> by Adrienne Moore

The winner of the RHS A-Z was Mrs Ann Davidson.

longs to the sixth generation of the Deans family who have owned and managed the property since 1843. We had our picnic lunch outside in the area beside the Homebush Stables and we were then able to visit the Museum and shop in the stables complex. Many of us enjoyed a wander around the Museum full of household items and an extensive collection of farm machinery and equipment, which brought back memories of our mothers and grandmothers at keeping happy homes. We saw the original water turbine for driving machinery with its castellated water tower and the stalls in the stables still bearing the names of the last working horses.

Colin Watson gave us a history of the six generations of the Deans family. James Deans was a lawyer in Scotland but did not have enough land for his farm loving sons to inherit. William and John were therefore encouraged to try to farm in New Zealand. William arrived in 1840 and John in 1842. In 1843 they took a lease from the Ngai Tahu tribe for 33000 acres at Riccarton for a rent of £8 per year and so they began to farm obtaining stock from the area of Homebush in Sydney (where the 2000 Olympic Games were held) and this was the inspiration for the name of "Homebush" for the area of land which was bought in Canterbury. Tragically William was drowned on one of these trips in 1851. John went back to Scotland in 1852 and married Jane McIlraith, returning to New Zealand in 1853. However John died from tuberculosis in 1854, a year after his son was born. Jane Deans then took on the management of the land with three trustees and with the help of her two brothers, Hugh and George and stepbrother James; who arrived from Scotland in 1856. Jane's son, John, married Catherine and they had 12 children. Since then generations of Deans have farmed the land and to date 1350 acres is under the current management farming sheep and cattle. Most of the large tree plantings were organised by James Deans and her brother, James McIl-

raith in the 1850s and her grandson, James began the Rhododendron and azalea collections, but it was Jane Deans love of planting trees, shrubs and flowers which inspired her descendants to continue adding to such an interesting woodland garden.

Colin Watson then showed us through the eight acre "Garden of Trees" around the homestead and along the stream with its large collection of trees, Douglas Firs, Redwoods, Wellingtonia's with their unique cones, two Cedars, Poplars, Maples, Cherries in blossom, Oaks, Sycamores, a Tulip Tree, a Beauty Bush and Rhododendron hybrids from Wakehurst Place in the UK under planted with Lily of the Valley and Himalayan lilies which flower every 7 years. Bill Sykes and Max Visch led some of us slip-sliding through the damp bush walk full of native trees and shrubs, helpfully identifying particular specimens for us. The collection of rhododendron trees from the Himalayas was so tall and majestic with their flowers nestled in the tree canopy. We returned across the stream to the rose garden beside the homestead (two splendid weeping pears catching our attention) and then into a garden surrounded by an old holly hedge in beautiful condition.

Our final call of the day was to "A Cracker of a Nut" a walnut orchard and processing plant at Ticketts Road, West Melton, where we were met by Jenny Lawrence, an enthusiastic walnut grower. Firstly she took us into one of the walnut orchards where she explained that before any walnut trees could be grown a shelterbelt of poplars had to be established. In 1989 the first walnut trees were planted after the late Rex Baker held a competition. This competition produced 700 entries for the 'Great Walnut Search'. Fifteen entries were short listed and when Jenny Lawrence came to plant her orchards she was able to choose five varieties suitable for orchard conditions requiring a quality walnut, a good yield, resistance to disease and preferably late flowering to avoid frost

Jane

damage (particularly necessary in Canterbury). All the trees planted were grafted from the English Walnut rootstock. Of the 530 trees planted each tree is individually irrigated, managed by careful pruning and monitored so that there is no over watering (the monitored tree was identified by a pink ribbon). Spacing of the trees is essential as they grow large and leaf and soil analysis is completed so that compost application can be managed effectively. A good walnut must taste and look good plus have a crack out percentage of 42 to 45%. No chemicals are applied to the trees and harvesting is done by hand. We were then taken into the processing plant where walnuts packed into onion bags are received from all over New Zealand. The cracking machine was from 'Top Nut' in Hamilton and cracks the nuts at the rate of the contents of one onion bag in five minutes. The separator machine separates the kernels from the shells and the darnels are then passed onto a slow speed conveyer belt where they are sorted by hand into pieces baking grade and rotten bits. 20 – 25 tonnes per week are processed and the first export to California was celebrated on the day of our visit. The by-products are mash sold for poultry consumption; shells for pathways and the husks produce a natural dye for wool. Previously walnuts were sent to Marlborough Olives to press oil from them but now the press has been relocated into the Processing Plant and the first oil was processed the day before our visit. The gourmet walnut oil will be marketed in a special dark bottle in addition to the already popular wood oil. After tasting samples of the walnut paste and chutney many of us purchased the delicious products

After a very interesting day we returned to our bus to be driven back to the Botanic Gardens having enjoyed a wonderful trip expertly organised by Adrienne Moore and Alison Fox. Many thanks to both of you.

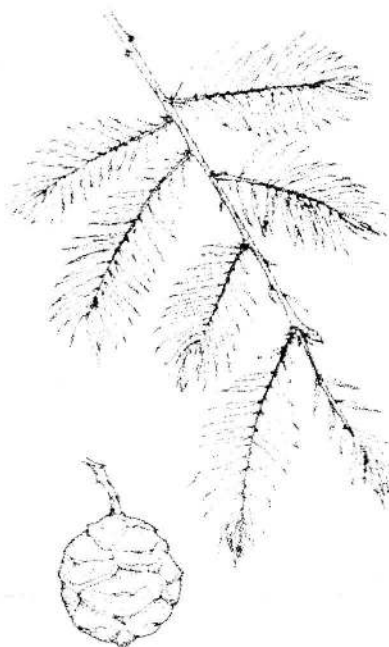
Charlotte Bangma

Redwoods, Swamp Cypresses and other Relicts

Garden Walk with Max Visch
December 16th

A smaller than normal group was present because of the closeness to Christmas. The topic "Redwoods, Swamp Cypresses and other relicts" proved to be most interesting.

Moving down stream, in a westerly direction, the first tree we stopped at was the Swamp Cypress.

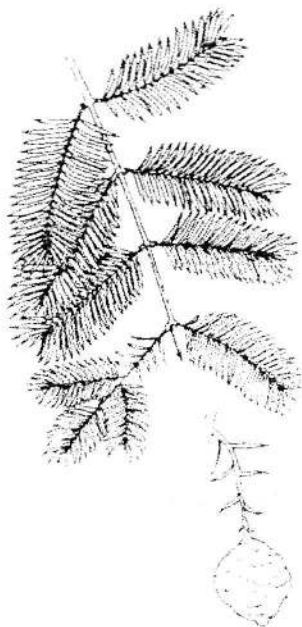


The soft leaves on deciduous, alternate side shoots and the globular cone of the Swamp Cypress

This one was growing on the bank clear of the river, unlike the ones growing in the Kiosk Lake. This tree did not show the unique 'knees' from the roots seen in the lake specimens. Botanists are unsure of the function of these knobs that arise above the sinker-roots where they descend into the mud. Do they supply air to the roots? Or are they anchorage points? Or both?

Large trees show the fluted buttressed base of a tree adapted to wet unstable ground. The natural habitat of the swamp cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, is the Florida Everglades: whether in or out of the water the swamp cypress looks its best when growing at the waters edge.

A little further along was a Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, like the *Ginkgo* it is a living fossil but one discovered only in 1941 when a Chinese botanist found about a hundred large specimens. Seeds were collected and distributed in 1948. The Christchurch Botanic Gardens planted their first tree in 1949. The leaves are soft, flattened and emerge early holding their light green colour until late in the season.



The soft leaves on deciduous, opposite side shoots, and the ovoid cone of the Dawn Redwood

Max led us a little further along the same path and pointed out a tree similar to the Dawn Redwood.

This was the Chinese swamp cypress, *Glyptostrobus pensilis*, smaller than the American Swamp Cypress and having its leaves arranged in three ranks instead of two. Its cone is long stalked and egg shaped. Of no economic importance it is now rare in the wild.

Still in the North West area of the children's playground close to the original sand dune upon which maritime pines, *Pinus pinaster*, grow is a large redwood, genus *Sequoia* after a half-caste Indian Sequoiah who invented the Cherokee alphabet. The other part of the botanic name *sempervirens* is from Latin, *semper* – always, and *virens* – green.

The Sequoia is one of the worlds most impressive trees; its is also the tallest. They grow in a narrow coastal strip of California where the coastal sea fogs provide the right humidity. The trees are not only of great size but also of great age. A typical stand will have trees 400 to 800 years old with the odd one anything up to 2000 years.

One of the best remaining stands is 10 000 acres (4000 hectares). They stand so close together it can be difficult for a man to squeeze between them. Such stands would not be able to perpetuate themselves if Redwoods did not have the ability, rare in conifers, to grow from sprouts round the rim of an old stump with a vigour which gives them a better start than seedlings.

Other factors which enable *Sequoias* to live so long is their resistance to wood rotting fungi and their very thick bark which protects them from forest fires.

The earliest recorded discovery of the Redwoods was in 1769 by a Father Crespi who noted that the shores of Monterey Bay were well forested with very tall trees of a red colour. He named them Palo Colorado, Red Tree, which is the common name in use today.

In the Children's playground area is another tree. Not the worlds tallest but the worlds biggest. *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. Superficially the two are somewhat similar but their foliage is quite different. They too are very long lived. The stump of one tree recorded 3400 rings and another with over 4000 was recorded.

In cultivation this biggest of all trees, often referred to as Wellingtonia has proved to be harder and more adaptable than the redwood.

The Mexican Cypress, *Taxodium mucronatum*, another tree, looked at, near the cacti house. This small tree can in its native home grow to an immense size. It is nearly evergreen, but casts its leaves all at one time when planted outside its natural range.

The Japanese cedar, *Cryptomeria japonica*, can also live to a great age. There is one growing in the Children's play area near the rear of the toilet. It belongs to a genus of but one species; a large tree grows up to 45 metres (150 feet) tall. It is Japans most important timber tree and some giant trees are one thousand years old. The bark is thin, reddish and attractive and becomes detached in long strips.

The Chinese Fir, *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, near the previously mentioned sand hill is widely distributed in the mountains of central and southern China. The best of the timber is used for coffin boards, which demand a high price; the timber is also much in demand for all round work. The handsome dark green foliage is seen at its best in sheltered humid areas. Max said it will often throw off branches.

The last tree viewed, near the Cunningham house, was the Japanese Umbrella pine, *Sciadopitys verticillata*. The generic name of this conifer is a combination of two Greek words, which literally translated means 'umbrella pine' referring to the way the leaves in whorls of ten, or thirty radiate outwards

form the stem like the ribs of an umbrella. Slow growing when young it can be made a feature of a rock garden for up to ten years.

This concluded the list of trees shown to us by Max. the feature they have in common is that they all belong to a relatively small family named Taxodiaceae. This, the swamp cypress family contains about ten genera and 15 species of deciduous and evergreen conifers found in North America, east Asia and Tasmania.

We did not see the Tasmanian (three species) which belong to the tenu *Athrotaxis* though Max thinks there may be one in the Pinetum on the west side of the Avon River.

Peter Mahan

Robert Fortune

Robert Fortune and the plants he collected and introduced from China and Japan.

A walk with Adrienne Moore
January 20th

A very interesting walk covering an unusual amount of ground (literally!). First a brief history, Robert was born in 1812 in Kelloe Scotland and died aged 68 after a remarkably adventurous life that gave us the pleasure of many plants we now take almost for granted plus of course TEA with which he was very involved. Robert started his career as a boy gardener apprentice in Kelloe and went on to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh and by 1842 was at the Horticultural Society in Chiswick from whence he was appointed to go to China as a collector. The 1842 Treaty of Nan king opened up China to the West. Robert took with him in 1843 Wardian Cases for his future collections filled with English plants as gifts also 'a fowling piece and pistols'! Three years later he returned to England and became Curator of Chelsea Physic Gardens.

Two expeditions in 1848 and 1851 on behalf of the East India Company and disguised as Chinese in spite of the Chinese reluctance he was successful in introducing many thousands of tea plants and germinated seedlings to Assam and Sikkim helping with the successful tea industry; virtually perhaps botanical espionage! Tea became not only an expensive highly taxed luxury but almost a necessity in the lives of millions.

Our walk started at the Information Centre where close-by we saw the beautiful Windmill Palm, one of Fortune's introductions from South China and across the courtyard *Aucuba* and *Abelia*. Near the water gardens we viewed the popular *anemone japonica*. Then we passed many other specimens, *Forsythia*, Jasmine, *Wisteria*, *Clematis*, and *Osmanthus* all introduced by Robert Fortune. We saw the herb garden with the now famous tea plant *Camellia sinensis* indigenous to India but introduced to China at least 2000 years ago. Just the two top leaves and bud are plucked and processed. For both green and the more familiar black teas. On to the Chinese and College borders for more plants including *Weigela* and the beautiful *Cryptomeria japonica* or Japanese cedar complete with its possum traps. We saw the Mahonias and moving on were told of Fortune's introduction of many *Chrysanthemums* and peonies including the lovely Tree Paeonias.

A fascinating walk and history of one man and his many plant introductions. Thank you Adrienne – what research!

Ruby Coleman

use of italics

On show in Townend House

Right now the Begonias are on display and will flower at least until the end of March. Browellias and Impatiens should flower for a while followed by *Streptocarpus* and then by *Cyclamen* and *Calceolaria*.

Groundcovers

A walk with Neil O'Brien
November 2000

The walk began by asking the group their ideas on what they considered a ground cover to be. Some were surprised to see a species of orchid, *Dendrobium kingianum*, making a very effective ground cover. *Raoulia*, or scab weed, seen in the rock garden was another good example; as was *Scleranthus*.

The best ground covers are those which form dense low clumps, such as *Festucas*, which can look most attractive.

For sunlit places low growing Alpine Phloxes make brilliant cushions of bloom in white, pinks, reds and blues, 5 to 15cm.

In considering the other question, "What uses have ground covers?" a number of suggestions were offered:

- Purely aesthetic
- Complement taller growing plants
- Weed control
- Fire control
- Erosion control on roadside cuttings *Lotus* spp and river banks certain ice plants.
- Water conservation

All at the end of the walk agreed that we need not look too far to find a suitable ground cover.

Neil O'Brien

Extract

From Touchwood Books Newsletter – January 2001

Just before Christmas two good new books arrived, the first being 'Dancing Leaves – the story of New Zealand's cabbage tree, ti kouka' by Philip Simpson.

This is a large 324 page paperback with more than 600 colour photos looking at every aspect of the cabbage tree, of which there are more than 19 *Cordyline* species coming from S.E. Asia, Australia, the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean, South America and New Zealand.

The book starts with a look at where the cabbage tree belongs in the botanical world and its close relatives, *Dracaena*, *Yucca*, *Agave*, *Nolina*, *Aloe* and *Xanthorrhoea*.

Six species exist in NZ today, plus numerous hybrids. *Cordyline australis* is the most widespread and well known but is under threat from Sudden Decline disease and loss of suitable habitat due to man draining swamps and other farming practices.

The book looks at the place of the cabbage tree in Maori culture and how they used it for food and fibre, and the role of the cabbage tree in pakeha art and design.

There is a chapter on growing cabbage trees and another on their Sudden Decline first no

ticed in the late 1980's. They were dying in large numbers for no apparent reason. The finger is pointed at a parasitic bacteria *Candidatus phytoplasma australiense*, which could be spread by the Australian passion vine hopper.

The author reckons that despite the massive death rate, which has now slowed, there are still about 3.5 million trees left – about one for each New Zealander. However to maintain what is a major feature of our countryside we need to protect what we have and to plant many more.

An excellent read and well researched. I hope this monograph helps save our cabbage trees. \$59.95.

Review by Peter Arthur

Postscript

Dr Warwick Harris, Foundation President and current member of the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, is doing on going research into the genetic variation of cabbage trees. He is studying the traditional and potential uses in horticulture and natural products from these plants.

Dr Harris' work is mentioned in this new book.

Adrienne Moore

TRIBUTE

Tribute paid to retiring committee member Roy Edwards

At the Christmas Party on 1 December Dennis Preston, as President of the Friends, paid tribute to Roy Edwards who had retired after 10 years service on the Committee.

Dennis said that Roy had been an inaugural

member of the Friends who had not only served a term as President and been primarily responsible for the questions posed at the Annual Quiz but also a tower of strength to the Committee over the years. A presentation for the purchase of books was made to Roy in recognition of his lengthy and valuable services.

Roy Edwards replied

Thank you for saying all of those nice things about me

I have enjoyed my time with the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic gardens that started for me in October 1988 by attending a meeting called by Neiel Drain.

The aim for the Friends, after early discussions, was to establish a group of people to assist in the Promotion, Protection and Preservation of the ChCh Botanic Gardens for all to continue to enjoy into the future. This was related to perceived threats based on Govt. philosophy of user pays.

The Friends were well served by an excellent inaugural committee, particularly through the wisdom of Dr Warwick Harris who provided a sound framework on which future committees could operate. As well as Warwick, Adrienne Moore as secretary, Max Visch as chief botanist, guide and plants person extraordinaire and Colin Neal who has been an excellent servant of the Friends as Treasurer for many years.

Since then there has been progress on many fronts, with the development of Visitor Centre helpers, ably organised by Jane English. The development and training of Gardens Guides, Nursery groups, the October Plant Sales, Clean up the World days, friends helping with seed cleaning and Index Seminum duties, and assistance to the Gardens staff in many wide and varied areas.

As well as the many hours freely given by the Friends, they have been able to raise considerable sums of money to assist with purchases that might not otherwise have been made. Some of these are, annual contributions to the Botanic Gardens such as the library fund and

awards to staff for excellent work. Other gifts such as TV, video, assistance for lighting, display boards, computer and so on have been used to help promote and educate people about the gardens.

Throughout my involvement with the Friends there seems there have been two strands; on the one hand those with an interest in plants and places, and on the other people with an interest in places and people, a community of like-minded people. It is this community of Friends that is the most important to foster and collectively they will ensure the future of the place.

There have been two groups with an interest in the Friends operations, firstly the Friends and its members, but also the other partner, the Parks Unit of the ChCh City Council. I must commend Warwick Scadden for being so able and willing to work with the Friends and to keep us informed of changes. Without this kind of input at that level the Friends cannot easily operate and it is surely in the interests of the Council to value the work of this group.

The Friends have come a long way in a short time and to progress we need to expand facilities and to work alongside the council to ensure we are all going in the same direction.

Finally I would like to thank those whom I have worked with mainly on committees, but also to all of the speakers I have had dealings with over the years and to Friends and Botanic Gardens staff who have made many aspects of this work fun to be involved with.

**Thank you.
Roy Edwards**

Friends Jottings

Propagating Teams 2001

Each year the FCBG holds a plant sale, usually at the beginning of October, to raise money for a selected project in the Gardens. In 2000, for instance, the annual sale produced money which has been put towards the creation of a pergola to provide shade in the Children's Playground. In addition a notable Bulb Sale was held in August by the Alpines Group.

In 2001 we shall continue the tradition of the popular October event, but in addition we propose to sell all year from a stand outside the Information Centre. The Centre staff have agreed to operate this self-help selling, which is quite an undertaking for such busy people, with Friends on duty at especially busy times. In this way, we can offer plants looking their seasonal best.

To produce the plant stock for these sales, volunteers of the Friends have formed four teams,

working through the year to propagate, pot and generally nurture enough and suitably attractive material. The Botanic Gardens provide most of our source material from excess roots or clippings, with the aid of our "Gardens buddies" on the staff. We aim to produce healthy, named plants not easily available elsewhere; most will be sold at a very young stage so may need further care after purchase.

We usually work in the Friends greenhouse for half a day a week and all learn a lot in the process. It may at times be a little cold first thing in the winter, but we bring hot coffee and share goodies and chat, so that it may be work but never drudgery!

If you feel drawn to join us, and new members are always welcome, phone the Information Centre and leave your name or phone Helen Constable at 332-1212. These are the Teams created so far:

	Team Leader	Days
Perennials and Annuals:	Max Visch	Thursdays
Alpines, rock plants, bulbs:	Jane Mc Arthur	Mondays
Succulents and drought tolerant:	Jim Dunne	
Trees, shrubs and natives	Tony MacRae (to advise)	Tuesdays
Curators House gardeners	Included in Max's group	

Additional people may well be needed to stock the sale stand or to sell at busy times.

Contributions of spare pots are always welcomed. We prefer them washed to avoid possible infections.

Helen Constable
Plant Sale Coordinator

General Information

New P O Box

Our new P O Box number has been corrected on the front and rear of this Newsletter. If your subscription is due please send it to:

The Treasurer,
Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens,
P O Box 2553,
Christchurch.

If you are contacting from overseas do not forget to add, New Zealand.

The subscriptions are:

Single	\$12.00
Family	\$18.00
Associate	\$12.00
Student	\$ 6.00

If you did not pay your subs last year pay it now so you can remain on our mailing list.

Friends may notice some changes to the Newsletter. It is being put together by the present editor, Peter Mahan, aided by Maria Adamski using the Friends computer.

Contributions to the newsletter would be appreciated via e-mail or on disc, non-formatted preferably in word if at all possible. Hand written contributions are very welcome.

When ready the copies will be run off, as usual, by Wayne Higgins, of Kinley's Secretarial and Copy Service.

A Sad Loss

The Friends were saddened to learn of the death this week of one of their most valuable members. Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with the Friends since its beginning. He did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a social function to attend, funds to be raised, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips. "Let Someone Else do it."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest contributors of his time to the Friends; whenever there was a need for volunteers, everyone just assumed Someone else would volunteer. Someone Else was a wonderful person—sometimes appearing superhuman but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to do the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to help, remember —WE CAN'T DEPEND ON SOMEONE ELSE!

George had a splendid garden of which he was very proud. Friends when they came would say, "George, those magnificent tomatoes; however do you do it?" George would reply, "Oh just plenty of manure, manure and more manure."

"How do you grow such beautiful cabbages and just look at those pumpkins," and George would say, "Lots of manure, manure, manure and more manure." One day his grand daughter said to her grandmother, "Grandma do you think you could get grandpa to say fertilizer?" "Fertilizer! Oh I don't think so dear. It took me years to get him to say manure."

Contact Numbers

President	Dennis Preston	351-4131	Ex Officio	Craig Oliver	366-1701
Immediate Past President	Faye Fleming	351-7798		Kevin Garnett	366-1701
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Membership Secretary	Ruby Coleman	355-8811	Plant Sale	Helen Constable	332-1212
Minutes Secretary	Jim Crook	358-5845		Gcon@xtra.co.nz	
Committee Members	Maria Adamski	325-2330	Newsletter mailout	Sally Jebson	352-6363
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	Tony Burnett	384-1381	Botanist	Bill Sykes	366-3844
	Amelia Childs	382-2451	Enquiries		
	David Given	351-6069	Afternoon Programme	Information Centre	366-1701
Walks	Susan Molloy	366-1701		Adrienne Moore	351-5915
Newsletter	Max Visch	338-2273		Janet Begg	385-5114
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