

Newsletter

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

No 54, Autumn 2003

INSIDE

- 2 Gardens News
- 3 Recent Events
- 5 Articles
- 10 Snippets

Insert

Coming Events

FCBG

PO Box 2553
Christchurch

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time to be involved with the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. I am sure you will sense the enthusiasm in the section of this newsletter written by Barry Sampson, Interim Botanic Services Team Leader. Things are happening. We welcome his warm collaborative approach.

We have been asked to look at several projects which will involve many people and which will enhance the Gardens. To do this well (we only have one chance) we need volunteers to be guides, people to work with Gardens' staff and volunteers to assist visitors in the Gardens. In the bigger picture there are education projects and the potting shed activities. A toast-rack type vehicle will be back. On a long-term basis, ideas are being developed for a new building complex and a new position, as Curator, will soon be advertised worldwide.

Neil and I have just returned from Melbourne. We spent a serendipitous day at the Royal Botanic Gardens where we met with their Education Staff and the President and administrative staff of their Friends' Group. The president of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, was also visiting the Melbourne Gardens, so we had a great discussion on Friends' issues in Australasia - an impromptu mini conference and unplanned too. It was a wonderful exchange of ideas. Many of our concerning issues are shared with our neighbours across the Tasman. Please read your newsletter very carefully as there is a lot happening. Remember all our efforts are to support, promote, protect and preserve our Gardens and we need your energy and ideas.

Faye.

President

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAY AT CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2003

For families of Friends of BG, Botanic Gardens' staff families and their preschool to 13 year old friends.

10.30am to 12 noon

12noon to 1pm

1pm to 3pm

A detective hunt using clues and a map.

Lunch break. (Please bring your own.)

Workshop choices:

Birds In Our Bush,

Powerful Plants

Bush Camp 1853.

Each workshop has a variety of hands on, high interest activities. Workshop numbers are limited and bookings are essential. For a **BOOKING SHEET** and programme details send a stamped self-addressed envelope by 21 February, to: GARDENS' FUN DAY, 6 Gothic Place, Christchurch 4

Come to '*Plant Art*' a talk by **Elisabeth Sherras Clark**, who is a visiting international botanical illustrator, flower painter and textile designer. Monday 17th February. See 'Coming Events' for more details.

Gardens' News

New Year. New Opportunities.

Until a new permanent appointment is made later this year, Barry Samson is at the Botanic Gardens as Interim Botanical Services Team Leader. He comes with a fresh approach, much enthusiasm and is very supportive of the Friends.

Barry writes

I have a background in natural area management, principally with national parks and regional parks. However, I have a passion for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and I am thoroughly enjoying my experience in the role.

In the few short weeks I've been here I've managed to have three meetings with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. I've been encouraged and heartened at the passion and expertise that sits on your executive, they are a dedicated group of people. I have a real belief in fostering groups such as the Friends, and ensuring that the path we travel is the same one, and an easy one. To this end I'll ensure that the lines of communication are always open, and I encourage you to call me if you have any issues you'd like to discuss - or simply for a chat!

There are a number of exciting initiatives being discussed at the moment, and I'd encourage you to attend your meetings so you can participate in bringing these to fruition. With your help we can ensure that our Gardens remain one of the very best in the world.

Volunteers

Volunteers' programmes are critical to the management of modern day botanic gardens and parks operations. This a world wide phenomenon that has increased in importance in the last five years. The monetary value of the work volunteers carry out for the City Council can be expressed in hundreds of thousands of dollars. The social value of mixing and meeting new people enhances the community of Christchurch, and the work carried out will be appreciated by generations to come.

Some organisations will offer work to volunteers that their own staff simply do not want to do. This type of work can often be demeaning and soul

destroying, and quite frankly ensures that those volunteers don't come back. A volunteer needs to be treated as a member of staff and the work programme has to be meaningful and often varied. A sense of self worth and achievement is often all that a volunteer asks for, in return for hours of free labour.

We are developing a project based volunteer programme at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens that will ensure there is a definite target to achieve, the work carried out can be measurable, and the outcome is linked to the bigger picture. What we propose is getting all our section heads to develop and write up the projects, with start dates, and completion dates. They will be looking for a certain skill type or interest, and it is hoped that the volunteers will return to continue working with that section head.

I hope to have these projects available to you in the next few weeks and we can begin our programme before March of this year. As the programme develops, like all good projects, we should step back periodically and see just how well we are doing. If it needs to be adjusted, we can take time out to do that. Open lines of communication with the section head and myself are available and encouraged, and feedback is essential. We look forward to a successful year with the Friends.

Barry Samson.

Any members interested in registering for work alongside the staff in the Gardens, please contact Faye Fleming Phone 3517 798 or Charlotte Bangma 337 6610. This is a new opportunity and training will be provided.

Photos throughout the seasons.

Some day we will have another photo competition.
Be prepared.
Take your camera on every visit to the Gardens.

Recent Events

Bus trip to French Farm property of Nancy and Bryan Tichborne

This trip, when advertised, was so popular that it was necessary to make two days of it, on the 23rd and 30th of November. We were blessed, on each occasion, with beautiful weather and a happy group of Friends.

We arrived at French Farm to be greeted by Bryan and Nancy who made us very welcome. The Tichborne garden is a delight. As far as the eye can see there is a harmonious blending of colour in an amazing collection of unusual plants and trees against a backdrop of native bush. Nancy's fascination with the day lily (*Hemerocallis*) was evident with the extensive plantings on the bank above the river flat and interspersed among the general flowerbeds. There is so much of interest in this garden that it would take pages to tell the story, but, to mention just a few, the Irises were gorgeous, the roses unusual, the *Echium* was an architectural focus, there were brilliant nasturtiums, colourful pimpernel, (*Anagallis*) and a glorious pink *Cornus*.

In the Studio we were treated to an interesting and informative talk on the work of a professional artist. Nancy's work is well known internationally so it was a privilege to see work in progress and examples of the changes in her style of subject. Nancy also gave a potted history of the valley, which showed a very progressive community for those days. We thank Nancy and Bryan very much for the opportunity to visit them and John Knox for his usual skill in driving the bus.

Alison Fox

Max Visch recalls notable plants in Nancy and Bryan's garden, and of our visit to Heaton Rutland's and Alison Collingwood's garden.

Greyia, the Natal bottlebrush, which is from South Africa. *Cantua buxifolia* – whose long tubular flowers are pollinated by humming birds and are reputed to have been sacred flowers of the Incas of South America. *Isoplex canariensis* a spectacular close relative of the foxglove, from the

Canary Islands and *Pinus patula*, the Mexican weeping pine, with its graceful pendulous foliage.

The dark leafed form of the elderberry, (*Sambucus nigra*) and the purple leafed form of the south European smokebush, (*Cotinus coggygria*) were conspicuous and cleverly placed with companion plants to create stunning colour combinations.

There were many excellent specimens of kowhai, lemonwoods and other native trees - but the most outstanding specimen was a huge pokaka (*Elaeocarpus hookerianus*) the largest specimen I've ever seen.

At Robinson's Bay, the Friends visited the home, nursery and arboretum established by Heaton Rutland and Alison, an exceptionally talented and prolific plant propagator. This 20acre (8-hectare) hillside garden with its own microclimate has developed since 1987. The planting has been described as "a true eccentric's eclectic collection", which now clothes the dramatic site with many trees shrubs and perennials from all temperate regions of the world – Europe, Asia, North and South America, and more.

With the twisting and looping paths it was like walking in a maze, but what a maze! Amongst the more notable treasures were the paperbark maple, (*Acer griseum*) from China – notable for its papery, reddish brown peeling bark and the Tibetan cherry, (*Prunus serrula*) also from China, which is primarily grown for its deep red glossy peeling bark. Prominent also was the katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) identifiable in autumn when the leaves waft out the smell of burnt sugar. The foliage shape resembles that of the Judas tree, but is much superior to it in the colour of its spring and autumn foliage.

Then there was the Japanese medlar or loquat tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*) from China and Japan and European medlar (*Mespilis germanica*) both frequently cultivated in earlier days for their fruit. The Citrus family – Rutaceae – was represented by the American hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) noted for its, aromatic foliage, highly scented yellow flowers and winged fruit, resembling those of the elm. The fruit at one time were used as a substitute for hops,

4 FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS

(*Humulus lupulus*) to flavour beer - hence the common name, hop tree.

Conspicuous were the large yellow flowers of the frost sensitive *Fremontodendron californica*, the tree poppy of California and Mexico. Its flowers are interesting as there are no petals and the colour comes from the yellow calyx. For me the most interesting find was the rare deciduous conifer *Pseudolarix amabilis* commonly called the golden larch for its magnificent golden yellow autumn colours.

Our hearty thanks are due to Heaton and Alison.
PS. The lunch and baking was delicious.

Max Visch

China's Contribution to our Garden Flora with Max Visch. 21 December

Not everyone was busy preparing for Christmas on Dec 21st as an encouraging audience including 6 overseas visitors, came along for another of Max's excellent walks. The following is based on his introductory comments before we discussed a sample of the Chinese plants in the Gardens.

China is the third largest country in the world with a total land area of around 9,600,000-sq. km., of which two thirds is mountainous or desert. Other natural features include; forests, grasslands, vast plateaus, some mighty rivers and many offshore islands. This huge range of natural features and the very diverse climatic conditions, provide suitable environments for a dazzling array of plants and animals.

During the last ice age around 2 million years ago, most of China was not directly affected by the Continental glaciers, though glaciers did form in the high mountains of the western part of the country. Generally southern China remained warm. As such it acted as a haven for animals and plants that had previously thrived in the temperate and subtropical zones of pre-ice northern and Central China, e.g. *Ginkgo* and

Metasequoia (dawn redwood). China contains about 30,000 species of flowering plants, i.e. one eighth of the world's total. This includes some 2800 different kinds of trees, over 1000 of which have economic uses. A huge number of Chinese plants are not found anywhere else in the world, yet there are many similarities in the flora of North America.

China is a rich source of plants and some of the well-known plant hunters who worked there searching for new economic and ornamental plants, include Père Armand David, Robert Fortune, and Ernest Henry Wilson. Plants such as; *Rhododendron*, *Camellia*, *Chimonanthus* (winter sweet), *Deutzia*, *Forsythia*, *Mahonia*, *Berberis*, *Viburnum*, *Philadelphus*, *Chrysanthemum*, paeonies and lilies have made their way to gardens throughout the world. Some economic plants from China are; millet, buckwheat, soya beans, sesame, rice, orange and many other citrus, kiwi fruit, loquat, litchi, mulberry, apricot, peach, persimmon and tea.

Take your own 'Plants from China' walk in our Botanic Gardens some time to see how many you can find. (Ask Max for his list to check on your plant hunting).

Herb Culture with David Barwick, 3 December

Botanic Gardens as we know them today have developed from the very early Physic gardens where medicinal herbs were grown, studied and used by the apothecaries, when medicines were all based on Herbs. The present herb garden in our Gardens, has a wide range plants that have medicinal, culinary and dyeing uses. There was lively discussion led by David, on how to make the most of these versatile plants. Thank you David.

Colourful Christmas party

Once again the Christmas party was a relaxed and happy occasion held amongst the wonderful display in the Townend House. Thank you to the Staff who accommodated our needs so well. The 'plant presents exchange' caused much swapping and negotiation to be sure we had a different plant to take home to grow.

Quiz question: What tree is known as the Burnt sugar tree? See page 11 for answer.

Articles

Roses, Roses and more Roses.

At our meeting on 20 November 2002, Pam Rabe, Brian Mitchelmore, Mary and Roger Murdoch and Chris O'Sullivan, brought along a sample of some of the roses they have growing in their gardens. The choices were wide and varied with a good reason for them having them in their gardens - i.e. they were growing on the property when they went there or in Pam's case she has been able to revamp her new garden to what she wants in it. The rest of us are working on it!! Brian had many roses to choose from as he works at Mona Vale. The following are some of the roses that were brought along with comments of the contributors.

On Mary and Roger's Roses. "Leaving our family home and garden of 30 years, four years ago, for a mere 400 square metre section, had its challenges. The previous owners had a great eye for lovely plants, but not for landscaping. Accordingly, we had to do something about some 40 roses, a good number of them rampant. We settled for just a dozen roses, among them our favourite three A's. All three are classified as "Old English."

Rosa 'Alchemist': raised by Kordes and introduced in 1956. Medium sized, very double flowers, quartered in the old rose manner. Golden yellow, in colour, it deepens to orange in the centre. Strong fragrance. Flowers once only. Subject to mildew. We have it growing up a pillar (complete with blackbirds nest).

R. 'Albertine': raised by Barbier and introduced in 1921. Flowers once, but what a show for 6-8 weeks! Flowers are double, from fat reddish salmon buds to bronzy salmon pink when open. Fragrant. On an 8-metre brick fence it looks great. Very vigorous and vicious prickles (good burglar deterrent!). Healthy and hardly requires spraying (Others commented that *R.* 'Albertine' is prone to mildew in dry sites).

R. 'Abraham Darby': a David Austin Rose introduced in 1985. A true gem of a rose with large, double blooms that are cupped and extremely fragrant. Coppery-apricot then turning to peachy-pink. Flowers from spring right through to autumn. Shifted it to grow up a somewhat unsightly wooden fence, where it behaves like a climber. It shows off beautifully next to the neighbour's brick house. Healthy with very attractive foliage.

Pam Rabe's love is for the old fashioned Heritage roses. "These are the roses our grandmother and great grandmothers grew. They came out with the early settlers and were rediscovered by Nancy Steen, in cemeteries, sides of roads, and around the old cottages. Most are relaxed in form, hardy shrubs with interesting hips, foliage and coloured stems, ideal for foreground, background or in the border. They need only light pruning in winter like most shrubs. Roses smell best on warm dry mornings. Perfume makers pick roses between 4.30- 9.30am. Oil content drops 40% after that."

Pam encourages us all to make regular visits to Mona Vale and the Heritage rose garden in the Botanic Gardens' Woodland area, behind the Nurses' Home. Pam's selection is:

Rosa 'Golden Wings' a handsome free standing, flowering shrub. The blooms are single with prominent golden stamens. Very healthy, it has a good fragrance and is constantly in flower. It also forms hips in autumn.

R. 'Lucetta' a David Austin rose of the Heritage strain. It has long arching growth and polished leaves, around 1.3m, high and wide so suitable for a small garden. The flowers are saucer-like and soft pink, fading to white. It is seldom without flowers and is tough, reliable and fragrant.

R. 'Penelope' a Hybrid Musk 1924. Fragrant long flowering shrub rose. Bred by Rev. Joseph Pemberton. Buds are soft creamy shell pink opening to pale pink. It is a dense spreading bush with few prickles and usually cold hardy and healthy. Height and width is up to 2 metres. Pruning - shorten by 1/3 in winter. Repeat flowering in autumn followed by pink hips. Other good Hybrid Musks are *R.* 'Cornelia', *R.* 'Felicia', *R.* 'Ballerina' and *R.* 'Autumn Delight'.

R. 'Sally Holmes' a 1974 shrub rose, 1.8 x 1m has healthy dark foliage, with flowers that are creamy pink fading to white in large trusses. It is strong growing and nearly always in bloom (Rampant in another member's garden).

R. 'Alberic Barbier' a rambler raised by Barbier in 1900. Growth is to 6m. It only flowers once but has many flowers throughout the season and depending upon its location it may flower longer.

The following roses were discussed by Chris and Brian.

Rosa 'Dublin Bay': McGredy NZ. 1975. RHS award

6 FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDEN

of Garden Merit 1993. *R.* 'Altissimo' (red) x *R.* 'Bantry Bay' (pink). It is a modern large flowered climber and is one of the best red climbers available today. *R.* 'Dublin Bay' has oval buds and well shaped intensely bright red fragrant flowers produced singly or in clusters. The repeat flowering is outstanding - no sooner has one crop of flowers finished than another is on the way. It has dark green glossy foliage and good disease resistance. It is one of the most popular climbers in NZ, also gaining great acclaim in Australia.

R. 'Golden Celebration': Austin UK 1992. *R.* 'Charles Austin' (yellow) x *R.* 'Abraham Darby' (orange pink). The round buds of this rose open into large flowers of cupped form recessed in the center. They are fully double and intricately formed with the larger petals forming a ring and overlapping each other around the outside while the base of the cup is filled with smaller petals creased and folded. The deep yellow colour is more golden than most roses that lay such claim in their title. There is a strong fragrance and the variety continues to bloom throughout the summer and autumn. In wet weather, the heavy flowers may bow the branches down. It is very suitable for the border, making a rounded shrub of average height with dark glossy leaves. *R.* 'Golden Celebration' is classified as an English Rose.

R. 'Graham Thomas': David Austin UK 1983. *R.* 'Charles Austin' x *R.* 'Iceberg' a modern shrub rose with repeat flowering. When this rose was introduced it was a complete novelty because it was the first real yellow rose to resemble in form and petal arrangement the hardy Old Garden roses of the previous century, whose colour range had been limited to reds, purples, pinks and pale shades. *R.* 'Graham Thomas' is a clear yellow, deeper in the heart of its cupped blooms, which are borne with remarkable freedom considering their size. They are carried on long arching branches, which often fall because of the weight. It has a strong fragrance and long flowering through summer and autumn. Makes a good shrub for the border. In cooler climates grows to average height. In warmer climates it extends much further and can be treated as a climber or pillar rose. Also classified as an England rose.

R. 'Leander': English Austin Shrub. Has an apricot blend bloom that has a fruity fragrance. Very double flowers. Repeat flowering growing to a height of 7 - 14' x 5-6' wide.

R. 'Loving Memory': hybrid tea raised 1981. Bushy growth up to 2 meters. Parentage unknown.

R. 'Margaret Merrill': Harkness UK 1978. *R.* 'Rudolph Timm' x *R.* 'Dedication') x *R.* 'Pascali'. Modern Austin flowered floribunda. The double high centred white flowers have a blush tint. There are 28 petals. It is large for a cluster rose being up to 10cm (4") across. The petals have a heavy substance and are very fragrant. The abundant foliage is big and glossy and the leaves come very close to the flower, giving a high-shouldered effect that shows off the flowers well. It is best in cooler climates but will tolerate a wide range of climates. No disease problems. Flower production is high on short to medium length stems and is a repeat bloomer.

R. 'Perdita': English Austin 1983. Repeat flowering, vigorous bushy. Disease resistant. Parentage is from a seed/seed cross. Flowers are yellow apricot fading to white (quickly) cupped rosette and fragrant. Foliage is dark dull green.

R. 'Puetersen': 1939. Climber /shrub raised in Germany. Open frilly in clusters and repeat flowering.

R. 'Compassion': upright free branching dark glassy leaves on reddish stems. Fragrant pink tinted salmon-apricot flowers spring to autumn.

Daffodil Planting Time

The Daffodil Woodland provides one of the main focal points for the Gardens and Christchurch in springtime. Each year a new generation of children are presented with this spectacle and the first modelling job of their lives, due to the need of many parents to obtain that perfect photo containing daffodil and child.

To achieve the display each year requires a yearly maintenance programme that I will describe here.

Starting in March, with what is quite an important time in the whole process, is the time that the fertiliser is applied to the Woodland. We apply fertiliser early autumn to enable the bulbs to get the maximum benefit and seeing that in many cases the bulbs have already started into growth, it really is the optimum application time.

Using a mixture of Blood and Bone, Superphosphate and Potash for the bulbs, to a ratio of:


3 parts Blood and Bone
2 parts Superphosphate
1 part Potash

After application, which is done using an agricultural fertiliser spreader, the best thing we can

hope for is rain to wash it in.


Around June we start seeing the first signs of spring with the first bulbs appearing and not long after we get the strong fragrance and first blooms of the jonquils, their fragrance a reminder that spring isn't far away at all. From here on in it just gets better and better with the display peaking late August and into mid September. A cool spring with good rainfall and not too many nor' wester winds are good for helping the display last.

After flowering is over we let the Woodland's grass grow until mid November, this process allows the bulbs the maximum amount of time to develop for the next season.

 The area gets a bit untidy during this period, but it is a small price to pay for the health of the bulbs. Allowing the grass to grow and cover the bulbs also deters bulb fly, which can get into the bulbs as they are dying down. They then lay eggs, which hatch and grow inside the bulb, eating the bulb from the inside out.

In the home garden this same effect could be achieved by having perennials etc planted around your bulbs to give that cover as they grow.

By December the Woodlands is all mown and starting to green up and be ready for fertilising in March again.

 Over the years I have noticed that when we have quite wet winters the bulbs will perform better than during drier winters. This is because the bulbs start growing from early autumn and they require water right through their growing season. Adequate water is even more important when growing bulbs in pots.

If new planting is going to occur, they are best planted from late March thru to the end of May, any later result in the bulbs not being established before the Springtime flowering. If planting into a grassed area, I would always wait until after rain, so making planting easier. Any new planting should be followed by an application of fertiliser. Over the top of lawn is fine or if planting into a bed then the fertiliser can be incorporated into the soil.

Large quantities of bulbs are usually ordered December to February for the Woodlands. When buying bulbs for the home garden you should look for strong, healthy, plump bulbs, avoid bulbs that

are wizened, discoloured or soft. Any commercial available fertiliser for bulbs will be fine and follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Fertilising is really worth doing as you are then ensuring the health and strength of what can be a sizable outlay in the autumn.

My intentions for the future of the Daffodil Woodland plantings are to over the next few years continue the planting from the Bandsmen's Memorial rotunda out to Riccarton Avenue. Here I have used mainly large flowered early hybrids like *Narcissus* 'King Alfred'. This extends the flowering seasons and the strong vibrant golden colour brighten up the dark woodland area, being early flowering they somehow bring the onset of spring closer.

Richard Poole
Collection Curator

Leonard Cockayne 1855 to 1934.

There is within our Botanic Gardens, an area dedicated to the memory of Leonard Cockayne, New Zealand's foremost botanist and one of our leading scientists. Leonard was born at Norton Lees, near Sheffield, England, the youngest of seven children. Left very much to his own devices, he developed a love of the plants and animals in his wanderings over fields and woodlands. He disliked school with some intensity but was passionate about cricket.

Cockayne's tertiary education was incomplete and fragmentary, having studied medicine at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and the University of Manchester but he did not complete the course. It is thought that failing health was one reason why he emigrated to Australia. His biographer, Hill 1935, considered Cockayne, "so alert, naturally brilliant and independent." Leonard taught in Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland before coming to New Zealand, where he taught for a few years in Tokomairino, Allanton and Greytown.

On 26 February 1881, Cockayne married Maria Maude Blakeley. She proved, over a very long life together, to be a devoted wife, who made her own contribution to her husband's work by pressing masses of plant specimens and packaging seeds as well as keeping her husband up to dealing with great heaps of letters and reports.

This great man had a lifetime interest in

8 FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDEN

horticulture, starting with his own garden at about the age of five years. He hated bedding plants with their gaudy colours and the intricately designed gardens of the time, but favoured instead herbaceous borders and shrubberies. Cockayne's horticultural pursuits occupied much of his time at his experimental garden, "Tarata," near New Brighton and subsequently at Ngaio in Wellington. Later in life he said that if he had his time over again, he would have worked with garden plants, especially raising lilies. In 1932 Cockayne received the Silver Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society.

In 1907 the Government awarded Leonard a grant to do his survey work on the vegetation of New Zealand and other scientific work. He is considered the father of New Zealand plant ecology and is well known for his studies on the evolution on our native vegetation.

Over a long and active life, Cockayne published 184 articles in 32 scientific and other publications and 37 articles with other colleagues. He produced his greatest work in 1921, "The Vegetation of New Zealand." He had published "New Zealand Plants and their Story," in 1910, "to stir up some interest here (NZ) in the botany of the country" (Thomson, 1975). Thousands of letters flowed from his pen and thousands of packets of seeds found their way to more than 40 botanic gardens worldwide.

Little wonder then that he was the recipient of many honors for his contributions to botanical science and horticulture. Two such honors, he claimed, enabled him to finance his work and to make a name for himself, were an Honorary Ph.D. from the University of Munich 1903 and in 1912 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society. Following these, were the Darwin Medal in 1928 and an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of New Zealand in 1932. These were only a few of the awards he so justly earned.

So, why not pay a visit sometime to the Cockayne Memorial Garden, sit for a moment and reflect on the life of our greatest botanist. It's a lovely place.

Reference: The Life and Correspondence of Leonard Cockayne by A.D.Thomson, Botany Division, DSIR, 1983

Neil O'Brien

The Botanic Garden

The first recorded planting in the area known as the Government Domain was the Albert Edward Oak in July 1863 and is considered the foundation date of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

In 1864, Provincial Superintendent and Horticultural Society president Samuel Bealey appointed John Hall chairman of a commission to manage the domain. Its role was to promote cultivation and planting in accordance with the objects of the Acclimatisation Society which had been formed earlier that year and had been granted four acres to introduce and acclimatise animals and plants thought to be beneficial.

Provincial Councillor William Wilson had been elected Society president in 1886. Accompanied by two management committee members and government gardener Enoch Barker, he met Provincial Secretary Stewart in August 1866 to discuss the site for a botanical garden. Some eight acres situated to the north of the hospital and adjoining the acclimatisation gardens was of excellent quality and well-suited for the purpose.

On the morning of 11 September 1866, the Christchurch Horticultural Society took formal possession of this land. Trees were planted to commemorate the occasion and William Wilson proposed the toast that the Society would 'advance in growth as we hope the trees will which we have planted this day and may it, like them, diffuse utility, ornament and progress throughout the province'. At the Society's annual general meeting in April 1867, Wilson urged members and all who had an interest in horticulture, to assist in the laying out of the grounds.

Three years earlier Wilson had delivered the first of the Society's public lectures, outlining the establishment of the principal trees and flowers. Beginning on a personal note, he told of his providing Octavius Mathias with slips of weeping willow, *Salix babylonica*, for planting at Riccarton. 'By the rivers of Babylon' recorded Psalm 137 when tearful, captive Hebrews hung up their harps in protest on the willows. Intrepid 18th century traveller, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, had given some cuttings to English poet Alexander Pope for planting at Twickenham and from these had come the specimens sent to Wellington and thence to Canterbury.

Wilson noted that walnut trees planted some twenty years earlier by French settlers at German Bay (Takamatua) had 'thriven perfectly...upwards of 7000 plants had been cultivated and were at first sold at the rate of twelve pounds, ten shillings per hundred'. The French had also introduced Black Hamburg and white muscadine grape varieties, along with olives and *Salix napoleonis* from St Helena. At Riccarton, the Deans had planted plums, pear and "leather coat" or "common russet" apple trees in 1845. In early 1851 Bishop-designate Thomas Jackson had brought out in the *Castle Edan* elm, ash, beech and oak which the Deans added to their collection of exotics. Wilson hoped that from this would arise 'in process of time a forest rivalling those of the old country.'

W.G. Brittan had imported the Keen seedling strawberry, Cyrus Davie had planted *Pinus pinaster*, Dr Earle had sown what he thought were English honeysuckle seeds from Hobart but found he was growing a blue gum. Norway and Italian poplars were planted by Henry Phillips, who also introduced rhododendrons to Dean Jacobs' garden. And so the list went on. It was evident that many of those first settlers were keen to turn and alien landscape into something comforting and familiar.

Not that Wilson was averse to cultivating native flora. Part-owner with Captain Thomas McClatchie of the schooner *Rifleman* in the New Zealand coastal trade, he is said to have introduced the Chatham Islands 'Forget-me-not' and other rare botanical specimens to Canterbury in the mid-1860s, to the delight of local gardeners.

In August 1867 Society member John F. Armstrong, who had succeeded Enoch Barker, became the first curator of the Botanic Gardens and was to do much to establish them as one of the most significant attractions of Christchurch. City Council records indicate that the Society did not initiate this development but there can be no doubt that members were involved, as part of the management commission (which in 1872 became the Christchurch Domains Board), as influential provincial government councillors and civil servants or through offering practical gardening expertise.

Excerpt from 'Wilderness to Garden City' Ed Colin Amodeo. CHS Inc, Christchurch 2001.

***Eucryphias*: special, Southern Hemisphere, scented, summer flowering trees.**

Gardeners choose plants for many reasons. Some years ago when researching in a local nursery for new evergreen shrubs/trees for our garden, the interesting pinnate foliage of *Eucryphia*, a genus then quite unknown to me, attracted me. Once I read the label, it was a "must have" plant, not only for the foliage but also for the species name *mooreii*.

The name *Eucryphia* comes from the Greek *eu* meaning well and *kryphos* covered. The sepals adhere at the tips to form a cap. *Eucryphia mooreii* is an Australian member of *Eucryphiaceae*, a small genus of four species found in Chile and Australia. Another Australian species is *E. lucida*, with several hybrids including a pink form. Our *E. mooreii* is now a sturdy broadly conical tree, which flowers well in late summer. The scented, most attractive single white flowers about 2cm wide, are typical of all *Eucryphias*. They are somewhat camellia-like with 4 petals and prominent stamens. The flowers dry beautifully for pot pourri.

The *Eucryphia x nymansensis* 'Nymansay' at Lanarch Castle in Dunedin, was a spectacular sight in full bloom and inspired me to visit Nymans garden in Sussex where it was raised about 1915. This evergreen tree was the first British hybrid between the two Chilean species *E. cordifolia* and *E. glutinosa*. After a long wait our *E. x nymansensis* 'Nymansay' has flowered profusely for the last two years, beginning at the end of January. The pure white flowers open to around 6cm and are very attractive to bumble bees. This tree also must be very special to the cicadas as the female lays eggs in the bark. The name 'Nymansay' comes from the first cross Nymans 'A' made in Nymans garden UK.

Although not commonly seen in nurseries, several *Eucryphia* species are available. Conditions preferred are moist soil and a shaded root run. The Botanic Gardens has a number of them, some of which were donated by the Friends. *E. x nymansensis* 'Nymansay' is in full flower now between the old Art Gallery building and the museum, and is part of the Southern hemisphere collection. If you have any difficulty finding these lovely trees, please get in touch with me.

Phone 3515 915 Adrienne Moore.

Snippets

News from the Propagating Teams

Teams:

Perennials & Annuals: Max Visch	338-2273
Alpines & Bulbs: Jane McArthur	384-2170
Trees, Shrubs & Natives: Neil O'Brien	384-6090
Succulents &	
Drought tolerants: Jim Dunn	338-9538
Coordinator: Helen Constable	3321-212

New members will be very welcome, each team usually works half a day a week depending on seasonal requirements. We are very flexible! We hope to organise a Herb Group so anyone interested please contact Helen. We may be able to have a Saturday team, for those who are unavailable during the week.

We have 3 main **Sales** during the year in August, October and February, plus continuous plant sales from the **Sales Trolley** outside the Information Centre, from September to April. This requires daily watering by Information Centre Staff - to whom many thanks! and frequent refurbishment by the Propagators. Anyone prepared to take care of that on a regular basis would be very much appreciated. The times would vary with the weather and season. Even occasional help would be welcome.

Also, is there anyone living close and willing to **water** the stock occasionally in the summer? The job takes about an hour as a rule. You will appreciate how quickly pots can dry out in a Nor'wester.

We still need your **spare pots**, preferably washed. They may be left at the Information Centre or at the Friends' Greenhouse in the Nursery area. And we also need **plant trays**. We have been using the styrofoam mushroom trays but these are no longer available and ours are fast falling to pieces. We have not been able to find a cheap, light substitute. The black plastic trays would be suitable but are rather expensive. Wooden trays are very heavy when wet. This problem is getting urgent. Has anyone any suggestions?

Our next sale will be on Sunday **February 23, at the Big Day Out** at the Botanic Gardens. We

shall be selling from tables located near the Information Centre. It should be a fun day. Last year they dropped chocolates on us from a helicopter!

Anyone who would like to help will be very welcome, names to Helen Constable 332-1212 or Joan Bower 326-5312.

Jane McArthur and her team are currently potting up **miniature narcissi bulbs** of various varieties. These will be **available for sale on Sun February** (at the Big Day in the Park, from outside the Information Centre from 10.30am to 2pm) and also at the Spring Sale on Sat 20 September at 11.00am from the same place. Enquiries to Jane at 384-2170. This is a rare opportunity to buy a generous number of miniature narcissi at \$4 per pot

Helen Constable

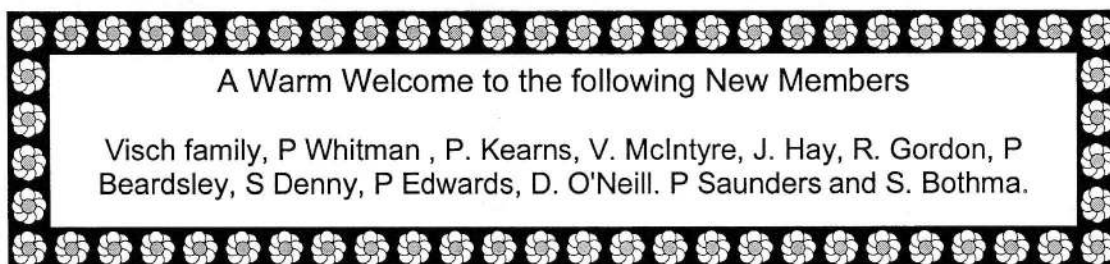
Lake Coleridge Open day Sunday 6 April.

As part of the Autumn Open day at the former hydro village, guided walks with specialist guides will be available through the original 1933 Hart Arboretum and subsequent plantings. For those interested to make up a group for a day trip to see this special collection of trees, please phone Adrienne 3515 915 or Alison 9424 989. Cost for the open day is \$10, plus our own transport.

Gone Bananas! and Beautiful Begonias

In spite of what you may have read about disappearing bananas..... **Yes we do have bananas!** See them in the BG in Cuningham House. There are two named plants, *Musa acuminata* at about 4m and *M. acuminata* 'Dwarf Cavendish', which does produce fruit. Show them to your young ones along with the many other economic plants in Cuningham house, (mostly upstairs).

Don't miss the fantastic display of begonias in Townend House. On Now.



The Friends' Guiding group

The guides continue with Elderhostel groups on Sunday morning tours. So far we have enjoyed glorious weather for the walks which helps give really good finish to the groups' tour in New Zealand. The last groups will be through in April until the following season. We would welcome more guides.

On 13, 18 and 20 February starting at 7.00pm we will be taking tours through the Gardens for the Flower Festival week. Should anyone be interested in joining the Guiding group, this is a great opportunity to come along and take a tour with a guide.

We would welcome new guides. If you would like to join the group, you will be supplied with notes to help you along the way and would not have to do the first tours on your own.

Please phone Chris on 332 8565 for further details.

Friends' Meetings and Events.

Progress is being made on plans for improved facilities and buildings for several needs within the Gardens. One particular requirement is for a

lecture room. Until such facility is available, we will hold our meetings in the Petanque rooms and the Canterbury Horticultural Society. The weekday meetings through the year, and the March evening meeting will be in the Petanque Rooms, (beside the BG Armagh St carpark). The evening meeting in April and Sunday afternoon meetings in May, June, July and August, will be at the Canterbury Horticultural Society, Riccarton Ave, in South Hagley Park. There will be no evening meetings in May, June July and August.

Please note carefully the venue for each event. To cover costs a small charge of \$2 will apply.

Our modest membership subscriptions cover administration and newsletter costs. To be able to support the Gardens for special projects and continue with our annual Library grant and Staff award, we need new fundraising ventures. In our 2003 programme we have some fundraising events which we ask you to support and bring your friends (Plant Art Lecture 17 Feb and film afternoon Sunday 22 June).

We are delighted with the steady stream of new members and we urge you to continue to promote the Botanic Gardens to your friends and colleagues. Nearly all our events are open to all and this is a great chance to introduce others to the Gardens.

Information Centre Displays

A reminder, wheel chairs are available at the Information Centre, free of charge for use within the Botanic Gardens. Enquiries to Information Centre phone 364 7590

February	Festival of Flowers (The Flower Fairy's Nighttime Visit to Toadstool Town)
03 to 16 March	Halswell Pottery
19 March to 13 April	World Meteorological Day 23 March
Late April to May	Autumn Display
June to July	Bugs/Children's Art

Answer to quiz question on page 4: *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* or katsura tree from Japan

12 FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDEN

Contact Numbers			Newsletter	Peter Mahan	354-1550
President	Faye Fleming	351-7798	Newsletter/Programme	Adrienne Moore	351-5915
Vice President	David Given	351-6069		Dave Moyle	358-8914
Immediate Past President	Dennis Preston	351-4131		Ingrid Platt	358-5197
Treasurer	Alison Fox	942-4989		Lynne Rowe	358-8412
Membership Secretary	Ruby Coleman	355-8811	Ex Officio	Barry Samson	941-7583
Minutes Secretary	Jim Crook	358-5845	Helpers		
Committee Members			Plant Sale	Helen Constable	332-1212
N. Assistant	Maria Adamski	325-2330	Newsletter mail out	Sally Jebson	352-6363
	Charlotte Bangma	337-6610	Guide Coordinator	Chris O'Sullivan	332 8565
	Janet Begg	385-5114	Botanist	Bill Sykes	366-3844
	Joan Bower	326-5312	Walks	Max Visch	338-2273
Outings/trips	Alison Fox	942-4989	Enquiries	Information Centre	364-7590

Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Inc
PO Box 2553
Christchurch
New Zealand

COMING EVENTS 2003 FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS

February 13th	Thursday 7 pm Information Centre	Walk cost \$2	<i>Introduction to the Botanic Gardens and Summer Highlights</i> with members of the Friends' Guiding Group. A Festival of Flowers event. Bring a jacket.
February 14th - 23rd	Friday to Sunday	Walk	Garden City Festival of Flowers. Full details of events available from Garden City Trust. www.festivalofflowers.co.nz or see the Christchurch Star.
February 15th	Saturday 1.30 pm Information Centre	Walk cost \$2	<i>The origin of our perennials</i> with Max Visch and Friends' Guides.
February 17th	Monday 8 pm Our City O-Tautahi, cnr Worcester Boulevard and Oxford Terrace	Talk cost \$15 Includes supper	Illustrated talk on Plant Art by Elisabeth Sherras Clark ,* visiting International Botanical Illustrator, Flower Painter and Textile Designer. Ph Joan Bower 326 5312 for bookings . This is a Friends' function and is open to all as part of the Festival of Flowers. Please encourage friends to come along.
February 18th	Tuesday 7 pm Information Centre	Walk cost \$2	<i>Introduction to the Botanic Gardens and Summer Highlights</i> with members of the Friends' Guiding Group. A Festival of Flowers event. Bring a jacket.
February 20th	Thursday 7 pm Information Centre	Walk cost \$2	<i>Introduction to the Botanic Gardens and Summer Highlights</i> with members of the Friends' Guiding Group. A Festival of Flowers event. Bring a jacket.
February 23rd	Sunday 10.30 am - 4 pm Botanic Gardens Sale time 10.30 am - 2 pm	Big Day in the Park	Entertainment and stalls in the Botanic Gardens including Friends' plant stall. Miniature narcissi for sale. Helpers please contact Helen Constable phone 332 1212.
February 25th	Tuesday 10.15 am outside BG Library	Walk	<i>Beautiful Begonias</i> with Greg Salton. For morning tea with the Staff come at 10 am
March 3rd	Monday 2 pm Meet at the Information Centre	Walk cost \$2	<i>The medicinal use of plants</i> with Rob Martin, Medical Herbalist. Followed by afternoon tea.
March 15th	Saturday 2 pm Meet at 121 Lyttelton St Spreydon	Garden visit Cost \$3	<i>Tips and tricks of a Designer's Garden</i> . With Landscape Architect John Morton. Fishing Fly display and Gaye Morton's pottery will be for sale. RSVP essential as numbers limited. Phone Alison Fox 942 4989 by 7th March
March 19th	Wednesday 7.30 pm Petanque Rooms	Talk Supper follows	<i>From Dwarfs to Giants</i> with Ryan Young who attended the National Bonsai Convention in New Plymouth and Trounson Kauri Park as recipient of the Friends' annual staff award 2002
March 25th	Tuesday 10.15 am Outside BG Library	Walk	<i>Dahlia Delight</i> with Bede Nottingham. For morning tea with the Staff come at 10 am
March 29th	Saturday 9.30 am Meet at the Information Centre at 9.25 am	Morning tea	New members' morning tea and a behind the scenes walk. All recent new members and any members who have not yet attended our past 'welcome functions' are invited. RSVP Ruby Coleman 355 8811 by 24 March
April 2nd	Wednesday 2 pm Petanque Rooms	Meeting & afternoon tea	Bring a plant to discuss with Friends' members and BG Staff. Followed by a mini bring and buy. (Fruit/vegetables/jams/pickles gardening magazines etc)

FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS

April 12th	Saturday Botanic Gardens 10.30am - 3 pm.	Childrens' fun day	Children's fun day in the Botanic Gardens. Games, trails and activities for BG Staff & Friends families plus young friends. For a BOOKING SHEET and programme details send a stamped self-addressed envelope by 21 February, to: GARDENS' FUN DAY, 6 Gothic Place, Christchurch 4
April 16th	Wednesday 7.30 pm Canterbury Horticultural Society	Talk Cost \$2	<i>The Aging Tree Population</i> with Dieter Steinegg CCC Tree Officer. Followed by supper.
April 19th	Saturday 1.30 pm Information Centre	Walk Cost \$2	<i>Plants from Bible Lands</i> with Max Visch and Friends' Guides
April 22nd	Tuesday 10.15 am Outside BG Library	Walk	<i>Educational Paradise</i> with Kevin Garnett or Brian Appleton. The use of the BG for Environmental Education and Future plans. For morning tea with the Staff come at 10 am.
May 11th	Sunday 2 pm Canterbury Horticultural Society, Riccarton Ave	Talk Cost \$2	<i>The use of Trees</i> with Euan Mason, Silviculturalist and Lecturer, School of Forestry, Canterbury University. Followed by afternoon tea.
May 17th	Saturday 1.30 pm Information Centre	Walk Cost \$2	<i>The changing season</i> with Friends' Guides.
May 27th	Tuesday 10.15 am Outside BG Library	Walk	<i>Hot and steamy Tropical House</i> with Chris Thompson and Frances Austin. For morning tea with the Staff come at 10 am.

Our Programme beyond this is yet to be confirmed but please keep following dates free. (NB Staff walks continue on 4th Tue of month. Evening meetings will resume in September.)

Sun 8 June 2.00pm	Meeting at Canterbury Horticultural Society. Invited speaker/s
Sat 21 June	NO Guided Walk see Sun 22 June
Sun 22 June 3.30pm	Fund raiser. Film, Greenfingers at the Arts Centre.
Sun 13 July	Early Afternoon function based at CHS
Sun 10 August 2.00pm	Annual General Meeting at CHS Guest Speaker

Exhibition 14 - 23 February, Festival of Flowers

An exhibition of Botanical works by local artists, Jo Ewing and Dianne Smith, both members of the Friends, will be on display during the Festival at the Heritage Hotel Cathedral Square. A workshop for artists will be held in conjunction with the visit of Elisabeth Sherras Clark.* Enquiries to Dianne Smith Phone 03 3275223.

Visit to the Garden of John Morton, designer and horticulturist

On Saturday, the 15th of March, please note 15th and not the 16th as advertised in the last newsletter, we have a drive yourself and friends visit at 2.00pm to the garden of John Morton, 121 Lyttelton Street, Spreydon. Lyttelton Street runs towards the hills from Lincoln Road, and 121 is 100yds. from the roundabout at Frankleigh Road.

John will demonstrate techniques of budding, grafting and cuttings as well as a simple snail trap and a hoe. There will be a display of Gaye Morton's pottery and John's fishing flies for those whose interests extend to the river.

We will have afternoon tea in the garden. Please bring a mug and your own food. Tea and coffee etc. will be provided. The charge to visit will be \$3-00. RSVP essential to Alison Fox, ph 9424 989 by 7 March, as numbers are limited.

FCBG
PO Box 2553
Christchurch

Contact Numbers

President	Faye Fleming	351-7798
Programme	Adrienne Moore	351-5915