

# Newsletter

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

*No 64, December, 2005*

## President's Report

The Botanic Gardens together with the Public Library, Art Gallery and Museum are the cornerstones of a cultural precinct which are linked by the Worcester Boulevard.

At present we have Rolleston Avenue which is a very pleasant street but is not linked to the Boulevard. A development plan needs to be produced which looks at the whole of the Precinct area but in particular Rolleston Avenue from Armagh Street to the Antigua Street Boatsheds.

If one draws a line down Rolleston Avenue from the Gardens – Museum – Christ's College and then another line down the Boulevard to the Art Gallery you have four aspects of learning. This T could in turn become a Cross which would be very symbolic if one extended the line to finish at the Cathedral.

Across the river from the Botanic Gardens is the Public Hospital. These are both centres of healing. One can remember when staff had time to relax and patients helped to recuperate by sitting on the banks of the Avon overlooking the Gardens. With all the cost cutting this practice has largely disappeared. It seems that the healing power of plants is known to all except hospital administrators. A well constructed walkway from the hospital into the Gardens could be a great asset to patients and families.

According to research 1.2 million visitors visit the Botanic Gardens each year. Many of these visitors will enter the Gardens from Rolleston Avenue. The Gardens do not have space age activities such as the museum to encourage visitors. What draws visitors to the Christchurch Botanic Gardens? Maybe history, peace and tranquillity, natural beauty, spiritual moments, or informative sessions – both guided and informal?

A modern day Botanic Garden needs to be on the cutting edge of technology. Examples are water conservation; safe handling of chemicals; drought-resistant varieties of ornamental lawn grasses; and groupings of plants for all situations. Many people are not able to travel overseas so innovative displays and imaginative interpretive signage can become a learning tool for young and old.

The Botanic Gardens has been a cornerstone of culture in Christchurch for nearly 150 years so we need to ensure that a visit will continue to be an enlightening experience and not an intellectual desert.

David Moyle

## Botanic Gardens' Information Centre

Don't miss the new display "Colour in Nature" which runs until the end of January.  
A Children's Trail will operate during the last 3 weeks of the January school holidays.  
Enquiries Phone 9416840 x 7590

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**FCBG**  
PO Box 2553  
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# Gardens' News

### Curator's Comments

#### Australian Visit

Late October saw the second BGANZ Congress in Hobart, Tasmania. For those who might be mystified by the acronym BGANZ stands for Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand\* and is a new network that was formally launched during the Congress. The definition of botanic garden is deliberately broad to allow inclusion of local authorities and others that might not feel that that have a botanic garden in the strict sense. The two current New Zealand representatives on the BGANZ council are David Sole (Wellington) and Brian Gould (New Plymouth).

The number of papers presented was not enormous, something of a relief as people had half hour slots and plenty of discussion time. There was a general theme throughout of looking forward and for solutions to issues. We were challenged by the keynote speakers ranging from Mark Richardson (BGCI) who spoke of connections with the gardens of the developing world to Tim Low's speech on urban issues and the adaptability of wildlife to city environments.

In addition I visited RBG Melbourne, the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Garden and the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Ten days earlier on a flying visit to Sydney (see the Wollemi pine note below) I spent some time at RBG Sydney, Mt Tomah and Centennial Parklands.

My overall impression is that there is a lot of good will out there to help Christchurch achieve its vision. But also we have a long way to go to get ourselves into the top league of botanic gardens. The Melbourne visitor's center (and that at Mount Tomah), are excellent. Scientific and conservation programmes are simply assumed to be part of the role of gardens, and the seed banks that each garden is setting up are integral to State conservation planning. Each of these gardens has developed extensive education programmes and sees heritage and wildlife as important components of their operations.

Highlights - the Melbourne Children's Garden, the Hobart Sub Antarctic house, the early settlers' collections in Sydney, the plant collectors' walk at

Mount Tomah, education at Adelaide, and the landscaping of Centennial Parklands.

For those who have not been to Tasmania, it is a delightful, somewhat laid back region, great scenery and friendly people. Hobart itself is extraordinary - on the banks of the Derwent River and rising up the slopes of Mount Wellington. The fishing fleet still anchors in Sullivan's Cove in the city centre, surrounded by nineteenth century warehouses many of which are now quality restaurants (great seafood). Within 45 minutes one can be in the alpine herb field of Mount Wellington. All in all highly recommended.

#### Wollemi Pine

The latest - Karina and I were at the global launch with Greg Kitson (Ambrosia Nurseries) who is co-sponsor of the application to import the plant into New Zealand. This was at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, surrounded by young plants of this remarkable "pinosaur" lit in vivid green with smoke rising among them and flying foxes circling overhead - an appropriately primeval setting for an evening event.

The Sotheby's auction a week later saw 292 trees in 148 lots raise just over one million dollars Australian. Lot 25, a grove of five trees ("The Given Collection") was sold for AU\$22,440 and the proceeds from this, once Sotheby's have deducted GST and their commission, will come to New Zealand for plant conservation projects.

We have been negotiating for over 18 months to get our gifted plant into the Botanic Gardens and several weeks ago we got the green light from ERMA; we are now waiting for MAF Biosecurity to complete an importation protocol.

#### David R. Given

\*Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand was formed to provide a forum for information exchange and coordinated planning. BGANZ works to foster best practice standards amongst Australian and New Zealand botanic gardens and other botanic gardens around the world.

### News about the Gardens.

The Botanic Gardens' Master Plan is near the completion of the first draft, and work is currently underway on the integration of components with the Hagley Park Management plan, which is currently being progressed by Derek Roozen. The Master Plan will require internal review prior to Key stakeholders and public comment, which is expected to progress into the New Year.

A "Volunteer strategy" for Greenspace Unit is currently underway, and there will be a need to discuss implications with the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in the near future.

Snow on the 19th of September caused considerable damage and resulted in costly repairs and clean up. Several large trees received damage to limbs and a large Beech in the native section will require removal. In addition the shade house within the nursery complex collapsed and will require repair.

The drilling for well within the BG yard has been successful. This will eventually supply water for irrigation in the Gardens. There will also be a need to convert some existing drinking fountains to main supply or turn off until supply has been installed. Work has been completed on the first stage of the herb garden renewal with further work planned in the autumn.

Look for the new interactive children's feature soon to be installed on the riverside of the Information Centre.

### Mona Vale News

The restored Falconer fountain has been returned to the Bath House and is now operating. Angus Allan has moved over from the Gardens to Mona Vale for a year and is working with Brian Mitchelmore to care for this much visited historical garden – a great place for a family summer picnic.

### New book

Pohutukawa & Rata by Philip Simpson. This new work is now available and celebrates all aspects of these remarkable New Zealand trees. Philip will be speaking to the Friends during our winter series next year.

### Botanic Gardens' Staff Profile - Louise - Curator, Section A.

From Rolleston Avenue, you are greeted with the cheerful, brightly coloured, neatly structured flowerbeds of the Botanic Gardens. The curator responsible for this area is Louise. She is friendly and unassuming, belying the hard job she tackles. Her wheelbarrow is laden with the tools of her trade, marking her as a key worker in the Gardens.

Louise started at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens nine years ago, the first four years as a trainee, graduating with a diploma in Amenity Horticulture. Her knowledge and hard work are evident in the bedding displays which are meticulously planned six-months to one-year in advance. Her responsibilities extend to the Armstrong Lawn, the Herb garden, the kitchen garden of the Curator's House, the Nurses' Chapel garden, as well as coordinating planting for flowerbeds at Mona Vale. A daunting list!

Louise handles most of the work herself, but once a fortnight she is able to call on trainees to give a hand, and when doing mass planting-out, all available workers help. Twice a year the bedding plants are changed. In October to allow the plants to "beat the heat" and get established before summer, and again in March when spring bulbs are hidden beneath the autumn and winter flowers, ready for an impressive spring show.

Irises are Louise's favorite plants, and spring and autumn are her favorite seasons. "When spring arrives you feel so relieved that winter is over, and it's such a pretty time in the Gardens", she says.

When talking about meeting people who visit the Gardens, Louise lights up. She says she really enjoys meeting the wide variety of people and helping them with their questions, particularly in the vegetable garden.

To cope with the physically demanding job, Louise does running training in Hagley Park to keep fit. But to relax on the weekends, while visitors are streaming into the Gardens for recreation, not for her a walk in the park! "No I don't come into the Gardens, I like to get away and do something different." - And fair enough too!

Candy Gibson, Information Centre

# Recent Events

### Annual General Meeting

The following report on aspects of the AGM held on 21 August is supplied for the benefit of members who could not be present.

#### Presidents' Report

The Annual Report by David Moyle was sent to Members with the Notice of Meeting. At the meeting he supplemented that report, with thanks, as follows:

- Lynne Rowe for her efforts and ideas in developing the Children's programme. Lynne, who was retiring from the Committee, was presented with flowers in recognition of all her services.
- Adrienne Moore for the quality of the Friends' Newsletter and Maria Adamski for her computing assistance.
- Faye and Neil Fleming for coordinating guiding activities and raising the profile of the Friends' organisation.
- Helen Constable and her team of propagators for their sterling service and for their contribution to the Friends.
- Alison Fox for the organisation behind The Friends' bus trips that are a welcome and well supported feature of Friends' activities. The demanding work done by her as Treasurer for a lengthy period prior to the appointment of Lesley Godkin was also most appreciated.
- Ruby Coleman for her consistent work on the membership of the Friends.
- Lesley Godkin for her professionalism as treasurer since taking up that appointment.
- Jim Crook for being the "chief anchor" of the committee and for his administration.
- The Committee as a whole, for their support and effective efforts.

#### Subscriptions for year Commencing 1 July 2006

To assist with Committee and individual planning subscriptions are normally set one year in advance. The Committee recommended and the Meeting approved that there should be no change in subscriptions for the financial year commencing 1 July 2006.

#### Election of Committee

David Moyle said he was happy to be re-

nominated. His appointment and the appointment of Faye Fleming to the position of Past President were carried. With the exception of Lynne Rowe, who wished to retire, all other existing members were prepared to continue serving on the Committee. They were re-elected and Robyn Gordon and Jay Rogers were appointed as new Committee members. (Details of the new Committee and Office Holders are recorded on the last page of this Newsletter).

#### Talk by Operations Manager

After the formal business of the Meeting Jeremy Hawker, Operations Manager of the Botanic Gardens, presented a most informative talk about the Gardens illustrated by PowerPoint, display posters and upgraded maps. He also outlined the activities and accomplishments of the Botanic Gardens staff over the past year. David Given, Curator of the Gardens, joined him in the subsequent discussion about the Management Plan for the Gardens.

#### Afternoon Tea Feature

Afternoon Tea was then served. A special feature was the gathering of Past Presidents recognising the fifteenth anniversary of the formation of the Friends' organisation. Warwick Harris as the first President spoke about those beginnings and cut the anniversary cake.

Jim Crook.

#### Trees - planted by or commemorating Notable People

##### Walk with Daphne McConchie August 13 2005

The initial outline was taken from the Commemorative Plantings pamphlet available at the Information Centre although a new pamphlet will replace this very soon.

The walk began at the Lime walk with the *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pine) planted in 1935 by the 4th Governor General, Lord Bledisloe. This remarkable conifer is very easily overlooked, but it is one of the few pines that respond by putting out epicormic growth (dormant growth from the branches or trunk) after a fire. Already, it is well on the way to its 40metres expected height.

The *Quercus robur* on the lawn south of the Central Rose Garden was planted in February 1963 by Queen Elizabeth II to mark the Botanic Gardens' Centenary, and is a very good comparison in size to the first tree, the Albert Edward Oak planted 100 years before. Although we are taking this out of sequence, the very small *Quercus robur* planted on the Armstrong Lawn by descendants of Enoch Barker, the first gardener to mark the 140th anniversary of the Gardens is another good comparison.

In a little glade to the southeast of the rock garden near the woodlands bridge is the Japanese tree, *Styrax obassia* planted by Lady Beattie in 1983. Commonly called the Fragrant Snowball tree, its delicate form is a perfect foil for the surrounding distinctive and mature trees. It is well worth a visit, especially in November when its abundant white flowers appear. On to the southeast corner of the Archery lawn to see the *Acer platanoides* (Norway Maple) planted in 1954 by the Queen. There are several of these trees planted in the Gardens for their very beautiful autumn foliage.

To the east end of the Archery lawn, the distinctive Kauri (*Agathis australis*) is growing straight and tall. Planted by Edward, Prince of Wales in 1920, it is still in the language of kauri, just a baby.

The Armstrong Lawn has many majestic old trees. The Big Tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) was planted in 1869 by the Duke of Edinburgh. Known by a variety of names; Wellingtonia, Washingtonia, or Sierra Redwood, these trees can live 1500 - 2500 years. On the same day, the Duke of Edinburgh also planted the *Quercus robur* nearby.

The *Cedrus libani*, Cedar of Lebanon was planted by the Marchioness of Normanby before 1880. She was Laura, the wife of the 4th Governor of New Zealand, the Marquis of Normanby. The family lands are at Mulgrave Castle, Lythe in North Yorkshire near Whitby, of Captain Cook fame. The present Marquis and his wife are very keen dendrologists and perhaps one day they may see this magnificent specimen for themselves. At one time, forests of these trees covered Mt. Lebanon - only small remnants remain today, protected by law. King Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, his palaces and that of his father King David used cedar in construction. At the front of the lawn is the *Cedrus deodar* which was planted by John Armstrong, (Government Gardener in charge of the Domain) on his 60th birthday in 1880.

On the north side of the Archery Lawn is the *Liriodendron tulipifera* planted in 1986 by Queen Elizabeth. It was originally believed to consist of a single species native to North America until a second similar species was found in China. It is a great shame that the solitary flowers (six yellow-green petals with an orange blotch at the base) are usually produced on the upper branches and are seldom seen.

On the way past the Australian border, we paused at the *Eucalyptus melliodora* or Yellow Box tree which was planted in 1982 by Dr John Watson, Lord Mayor of Adelaide. This tree is highly regarded in Australia as an ornamental shade tree and as one of the best honey producers in that country. Its bark is unusual to the touch, rough on the trunk and lower branches and smooth and white higher up the tree.

Now for the tongue twister or a new guide's nightmare, the *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* or the Dawn redwood on the main path in front of the entrance to the Townend house. Planted in 1949, this conifer from Szechwan China was thought to be extinct until discovered in 1941 by the Chinese botanist, T Kan. It is a hardy deciduous conifer with shaggy cinnamon brown bark. The leaves are larch green in summer, tawny pink and old gold in autumn.

Finally, we looked at the *Acer nikoense*, (Nikko Maple) now listed as *A. maximowiczianum*\*, from Central China and Japan, where it is now a rare tree. The first Friends' President Dr Warwick Harris planted the specimen on the Potts Lawn on the riverside of the Kiosk pond in 1990. It is now gaining height and is well worth looking at in the summer and autumn months.

Daphne McConchie Guide

\*Carl Johan Maximowicz (1827-1891) was a Russian German botanist who wrote extensively on plants of Eastern Asia.

### Camellia Walk 17 September

On a fine spring day **Tony and Wendy McRae** shared their extensive knowledge of camellias with about 20 people during a tour of the Botanic Gardens' camellia collections.

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There are about 200 species of the genus *Camellia* but the most commonly grown are selected varieties and hybrids of only three species, the autumn flowering sasanqua and winter and spring blooming japonica and reticulata.

The Kate Sheppard Walk is planted with more recently developed hybrids of *Camellia japonica* and also contains some of the small flowering *C. transnokoensis* from Taiwan and *C. sinensis*, the tea camellia from China.

*C. lutchuensis* which espaliers well and has fragrant flowers is growing in the Fragrant Garden, while some larger reticulatas were making a great display across the brook from the Primula Garden. Last in the tour were the sasanquas next to the potting sheds. A walk beside them in the early winter is a fragrant and visual delight.

A fungal disease recently arrived in Christchurch, camellia blight which causes the flowers of later blooming varieties to brown. The plant itself is not affected. Collecting and disposing of the flowers can achieve some control of isolated plants but the best long-term solution lies in the breeding and selection of resistant species and hybrids. Tony says that *C. transnokoensis* and *C. lutchuensis* and their hybrids are showing promise in this regard.

Helen Clemett, Guide

### Plant portraits with Joe Cartman 21 September

Joe and Ann Cartman are well known in garden circles for their knowledge and interest in the cultivation of rare and unusual plants. Those who attended last month's Friends' meeting at the Horticultural Centre were entertained by viewing a wide variety of colour slides of Joe's favourite plants. Because of the great number of slides shown, this report had to be curtailed somewhat so I apologise for its brevity.

Joe began with his *Rhododendron* collection. *Rhododendron arboreum*, with its trusses of pure white flowers, was much admired. Not so long ago a specimen of this rhododendron occupied a prominent position in the College border at the Botanic Gardens. Joe managed to raise some

seedlings of this tree before it expired.

Slides of the little known species of *Trillium*, *Helleborus*, *Paris*, *Clematis*, *Michelia*, *Zenobia* and many others followed in rapid succession. Notable were 2 species of bladdernut *Staphylia colchica* and *S. holocarpa rosea* with their white and pinkish flowers and much inflated capsules.

Of considerable interest were also *Stewartia malecodendron*, probably the most beautiful of the stewartias with its large white flowers and *Halesia carolina* the snowdrop tree; both natives to the USA. *Menziesia ciliicaylx* from Japan and a member of the heather family produces very pretty purplish urn shaped flowers. The generic name honours the Scottish plant hunter Archibald Menzies. *Abeliophyllum distichum*, a deciduous shrub from Korea, flowers in late winter and much resembles a white flowering forsythia.

Illiciums are always popular shrubs with gardeners and *Illicium floridanum*, the aniseed tree of the USA, is especially so on account of its large maroon purple flowers and aromatic foliage. Perhaps the most interesting plant was *Laburnocytisus adami*, a graft chimera, resulting from the grafting of purple broom *Cytissus purpureus* onto the yellow flowering *Laburnum anagyroides*. In this remarkable tree the outer cell layers are derived of one graft partner and the entire inner portion of the plant comes from the other. When flowering, the tree bears purple broom flowers as well as racemes of yellow laburnum flowers.

Joe is an enthusiastic and lively speaker who obviously enjoys passing on his love of plants to others. We thank Joe for showing us his beautiful slides of unusual plants and interesting and informative commentary.

Max Visch.

### Bus trip Orton Bradley Park and Taunton Gardens

On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005, 30 members of the Friends set off by bus for Orton Bradley Park. An interesting drive out through Halswell to Motukarara and on to Gebbies Pass led us to Charteris Bay and Orton Bradley Park. We were met by Kathryn Millar, (President of the New Zealand Rhododendron Society) who works constantly with the Rhododendron collection at Orton Bradley Park.

Her knowledge, as she led us along the paths, was fascinating. We learnt about the Park from its inception and the development of the Rhododendron Society Garden.

The land which comprises Orton Bradley Park has a long history, having been held under leases by the Rhodes brothers and Manson family until 1851. A stone hut, built by the Mansons and dated 1848, is still in use today. In 1851 Dr. Moore bought the property from the Canterbury Association and built a wooden cottage with an upstairs section which is now known as the Chateau and is a Museum of Historical importance. The Rev. Reginald Bradley bought the land from Moore, in association with Mr. Preston who relinquished his interest at a later date. The Rev. Bradley lived on the property for the next 33 years increasing its size to 2000 acres. He died in 1892 and his eldest son, Orton, who had been born at Papanui in 1857 (while his father was the first vicar of St. Paul's Church), took over.

During the next 50 years this man, farmer, scientist, engineer, horse breeder and horticulturist, planted 150 species of trees around the property and developed extensive gardens around the homestead. He leased out a large proportion of the land to dairy farmers, orchardists and market gardeners, in order to concentrate on his interest in science and technology. Among his achievements was the water wheel which provided power for a workshop and sawmill and he later installed one of the first privately owned generators to provide power for the homestead. Orton Bradley also started commercial quarrying and Charteris Bay stone is well known.

There are many fine examples of the uncommon trees planted by Bradley, around the property today, including cork oaks, Turkish hazels, Sikkim maples, as well as eucalypts and macrocarpas which he planted extensively. When he died in 1943, Orton Bradley left provision for a Trust to run the estate as a Farm Park for the people of New Zealand.

Before Kathryn led us along the paths of the Rhododendron Society's Collection she had an unnamed *R. maddenii* which she asked Max Visch to plant as a memento of our visit. When we visit Orton Bradley Park in the future we will see this, with a label "Max," on the uphill side of the lowest path in the garden at the South end. As we

followed Kathryn along the paths she pointed out the various families and explained the differing growing sites. Kathryn was a joy to have as a guide and answered the many questions from her wealth of knowledge. The Canterbury Rhododendron Society began the planting of the Collection in 1985 with 220 plants using plants of only white to cream in order to blend with the established trees and shrubs. These have been added to substantially over the years, with a relaxation with regard to colour, through purchase and gifts from interested people. The collection is extensive in the variety of type, colour and height and has an ongoing plan for planting. There is also a project in hand to provide Interpretation Panels for the Garden and towards this end the Friends made a contribution to the fund.

There was also the Camellia walk, the Arboretum walk, the waterwheel, stables and the Chateau to explore. We sat around picnic tables in happy groups to have our lunch before leaving at 1-30pm for Taunton Gardens.

At Taunton Gardens we were met by Barry Sligh, who with his wife Lyn, has turned this previously wild, overgrown valley into the place of beauty it is now. The historic stone house was built in 1853 and is the focus, along with the 140 year old *Quercus serris*, of this large, rambling garden which had its foundation laid in 1980 in this valley with the mountainous backdrop. There is a meandering stream and two ponds with a variety of bird life. The garden was not landscape-planned but has evolved over the years with consideration to the natural landscape. Along with a very interesting selection of trees, large drifts of Rhododendrons, *Daphne bholua*, Hostas, Trilliums and Daphne, the garden gives great pleasure all year round. In the Spring Barry cannot resist the temptation to hybridise and possibly produce a better Rhododendron, Hosta or Day Lily. The results of this work can be seen in the Nursery where members roamed looking to find a specimen to suit their garden. We wandered the many paths admiring the treasures in this densely planted garden, looking in on the lovely cottage, which Barry has renovated, in a most attractive historic style and checking out the black swans and other birds in the ponds.

Finally we set off for the ride back to Christchurch via Dyers Pass Road and Victoria Park, a tired but happy group.  
Alison Fox.

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### Celebrating Spring Walk with Alan Morgan

The 15<sup>th</sup> October was certainly a bit late to be celebrating the first flush of spring but there was still a lot of 'Spring' about for the seven Guides and Friends plus a couple and their four year old grand daughter from the public, who joined me for the tour.

The tour started at the Visitors' Centre and basically ran out of time and significant 'spring things' at the museum gates. Some of the items of interest were:- Dogwoods (*Cornus florida* and cvs), young specimens by the playground with a lament that they rarely do as well in NZ as they do in their home patch on the NE seaboard of USA (unlike the *Pinus radiata* and *Cupressus macrocarpa* which do so much better here than in their Monterey home).

The nearby Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) was just bursting in to leaf as one of the few deciduous conifers. The deciduous azaleas (*Rhododendron mollis* et al) were in full spectacular flush while their companion deciduous Magnolias had been brought to a premature end to their show by the snow a couple of weeks before. The bog garden had lots of activity as plants emerged from their soggy wintering state.

Our natives don't do the spectacular things that others do but there's something about the emerging 'Koru' of the tree ferns that is unmatched by the foreign show-offs. The Silver Fern (*Cyathea dealbata*) provided the best show on the day; pity you have to lie on your back to admire the silver undersides of the fronds.

Of course the rock garden had lots going on, as it does all spring with a rolling display. The *Michaelia doltsopa* on the lawn was keeping up what must be one of the most sustained spring displays of them all.

On past the Cherry Mound, the late ones just hanging on, the Maples resplendent in their new foliage and on to that lovely 'Spring Dell' near the Curator's House. The Bluebells were still going strong and the Lilacs were at their fragrant best. The front beds with their eclectic mix of 'spring things' were still looking good in spite of the snow.

So there was much to celebrate as there is all spring long. Keeping the Guides together was probably not much more difficult than the general

public would be; pitching the commentary for both the members of the public and the Guides proved a challenge at times. For a new chum though I really appreciated the support and advice of my fellow guides. Roll on next time.

Alan Morgan

### The Australasian conference of Vountary Guides in Botanic Gardens Melbourne September 2005 Theme: Yesterday / Today / Tomorrow

The theme was echoed by the inclusion of a plant on regular display called the *Yesterday Today Tomorrow* plant, otherwise known as *Brunfelsia calycina* 'Floribunda'. The plant has three phases; they are a handsome evergreen shrub for a frost free garden; they take on a multi-coloured appearance in spring and summer and the fragrant flowers open violet, fade to pale blue and finally turn white on successive days.

Three guides set off from Christchurch at 5 a.m. (NZ time) to attend a very well organised Conference. The only other New Zealander was from the Wellington Botanic Gardens. The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne has wonderful facilities with a number of old homes and a herbarium with a large lecture theatre. One hundred and forty guides gathered for five days to chat, attend lectures, participate in guided walks and visit some of the garden sites of Melbourne. As with most conferences, breaks were a great time to meet people and find out how other groups functioned.

A number of the Guide Groups are not attached to Friends' Groups. There is a huge variation; some have uniforms some do not; some charge for training; some charge for walks, others don't and some are closely aligned with the Botanic Gardens organisation and others are quite separate.

There were four main speakers who challenged us on future development, technology and management. Dr Philip Moors, curator of the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens, opened the conference and spoke about the changes in technology. He suggested that in the future, guides could be leading a tour via the World Wide Web, or that the tour could be beamed back to family anywhere in the world. Other ideas offered were; using the internet for question and answer



sessions; tour groups using various languages; and Voluntary Master Gardeners! *"The key is to embrace new opportunities with enthusiasm and stay ahead using new ways of delivery."*

Professor Mark McDonnell spoke about the challenges of maintaining biodiversity in an urbanizing world filled with tension. He noted that European cities were planned, but cities such as Tokyo are unplanned and had grown to thirty million people. There is a need to balance the physical and ecological impacts of such urbanization. Unlike Europe, Australian cities are developing into a big sprawl similar to the USA. Coastal regions will become the most congested. He said that, with sprawl, comes:

- Loss of native species.
- Street lights affecting migratory birds. In some USA cities, because of light pollution, tall buildings have their top-storey lights off during the migrating season.
- Landscape fragmentation reducing the habitats
- Greater distances between habitats.

He suggested that we need to:

- Change our values.
- Preserve our natural heritage.
- Value our wilderness.
- Start by preserving small areas.
- Work in small steps – like stepping-stones.

People want native things but do not understand how they may not be compatible. For example he said, *"They love butterflies but hate caterpillars."*

Andrew Laidlaw, the Landscape Architect in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne spoke about the process of building the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. The Vision Statement reads, *A place where children can delight in nature and discover a passion for plants, celebrate the imagination and curiosity of children and foster the creative nature of play.*

The brief for the Garden was for the planners to write what they wanted to have within the one and a half acres.

- Play: To provide spaces, hidden and secret.
- A place to create memories.
- A meeting area and a place where stories are told.
- A water theme and area.
- Activities, building materials, microscope.

- Demonstrate good horticulture practices in a vegetable garden.

They frequently mentioned that they needed to find different ways to communicate the same message.

The Children's Garden cost \$1.6m and it is designed to appeal to the new population of high-rise children. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed for three months over the winter and closed Mondays and Tuesdays except for booked groups. It is a glass free, alcohol free, smoke free area and no dogs allowed. There are high staff numbers and a number of volunteers in the garden when it is open.

Richard Bailey- Divisional Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne spoke about, *"Managing a living landscape now and into the future"*. He saw the current issues as:

- The need for a *"Mixed Aged Canopy"* for the Gardens' trees with 10% removed every decade.
- The need for future directions guided by a management plan.
- Maintaining a sustainable amount of new work.
- Avoiding toxic chemicals where possible
- Showing the public the processes followed for projects and maintenance.
- Finding external funding such as sponsorship and research projects that will bring in money. *"There are never enough resources."*
- The need for the Gardens to conserve water. They have altered their methods, and saved water and now receive sponsorship from their water suppliers.
- Using such things as soil sensors and mulch to aid plant conservation.
- The need to work smarter.
- The decline in the number of skilled horticulturists. They are looking at a three-year diploma.
- The use of volunteers is very complicated because of compliance issues.

### Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne

This is a very ambitious project that is new and exciting. It is a new Australian garden set to become a major tourist destination. It will involve the landscape of the Australian continent and highlight the beauty and diversity of the flora. There will be a sand garden, rock pool waterway, and a eucalypt walk and it will open in May 2006 at a cost of \$8 to enter. It is situated 45 minutes from

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Melbourne on a site that was previously a sand mine and army site. Part of the area has been open with walking tracks for some years at no charge. An education area and café are near completion and there is an active Friends' group. Hundreds of volunteers have helped with the planting using a coloured coding system for placement.

### The Geelong Botanic Gardens

These gardens display various similarities with our Gardens. Both were established in the mid - 1800's (1851 compared with our 1863), both are located near the city centre, our climates are somewhat similar and there are many familiar mature older trees in both gardens and both have an active group of enthusiastic Friends of the Gardens. About ten years ago a comprehensive long-range master plan of the Geelong Botanic Gardens was completed. Over two million dollars was allocated from the local council to develop a 21<sup>st</sup> century garden at the garden entrance. The new garden forms a dramatic contrast to the layout of the original 19th - century styled garden with many modern materials, interesting sculptures (and no grass). This contemporary area has three main plantings - indigenous local plant species, native and exotic plants that have adapted to arid conditions and plants of ancient origin that demonstrate plant evolution. After passing beyond the 21st garden entrance, the rest of the gardens had a wide diversity of established native and exotic plant collections.

In addition to visits to these two Gardens, throughout the Conference there were many opportunities to experience the beauty and diversity of the Melbourne Gardens with a variety of walks both organised and impromptu.

Russell Moffitt, Barbara Brailsford, Faye Fleming  
October 2005.

### Obituary

Our sympathy goes out to the families of Nan Hay and Ena Paterson who both died recently. Nan joined the Friends almost from our beginning and walked frequently from her home near Hagley Park into the Gardens. This was a somewhat gentler walk than her hiking trip to the Himalayas. She supported all our events including helping at the big annual plant sales. We have missed her in recent times when she became frail.

Dr Ena Paterson and Rev Hugh Paterson spoke to the Friends last year about their seed collecting activities over 21 years, based at The Vicarage in Sheffield. They made many friends around the world through a shared passion for New Zealand plants. Ena's enthusiasm, knowledge and energy was inspirational.

### Plant and Bulb sales

Your Committee is pleased to report that the Spring Plant Sale on 29 October produced a good profit of \$1871.40. That sum together with the profit of \$1407.65 from the earlier Small Conifers and Bulbs sale was again a most welcome boost to the Society's overall funds which, as members are aware, will be applied towards projects for the benefit of the Gardens, once the Master Plan is approved by the Council. The next seasonal sale a "Summer Plant Sale" will be held at 10.am to 2.00pm on Sat 18 February 2006.

In the meantime selections of plants including those left over from sales days and suitable for planting at any time will continue being placed on a trolley outside the Information Centre and available for purchase from there.

The Committee is most appreciative for the help of all the Members who again made the recent plant and bulb sales successful fund raising activities. As previously stated the helpers include the people who over many months, gathered, prepared, potted, nurtured and labelled both plants and bulbs for the respective sales. Additionally others whose work was most appreciated are those who co-ordinated, advertised and administered all the essential arrangements for the sale including last but not least those who worked long hours selling plants and bulbs on sales days, and in cleaning up afterwards.

Jim Crook

### Help needed please

We need volunteers for all sorts of help to do with our activities and if you forgot to renew your offers of help on the sub-renewal form, please phone Ruby Coleman. To keep our lists of volunteers current we need your response each year. (E.g. help with tea/coffee, setting out and packing up the chairs for meetings.

## Articles

### Profile: Adrienne Moore "Always Encouraging"

One of Christchurch Botanic Garden's most devoted and long-time servants is Adrienne Moore. Imbued with a passionate interest in plants and trees and an insatiable curiosity as to their history, she attended a public meeting in 1989 advertised to start a group called Friends of the Botanic Gardens. A foundation committee including representatives from the City Council, Polytechnic and the universities had already laid down the constitution.

The initial Friends' committee comprised Warwick Scadden (ex-officio), Richard Doyle, John Taylor, Colin Neal, Roy Edwards, Frank Harvey, Ron Proctor, David Given, Bill Sykes, Hugh Miller, and Daphne Banks. The first president was Warwick Harris vice president Des Riach, with Adrienne Moore secretary-treasurer. The first management committee meeting was held in May 1990, and the first public meeting, the following June.

A maple, *Acer nikoense*, was planted in the Potts Lawn beyond the Information Centre beneath which an inscribed plaque marked the Friends' beginnings in the Botanic Gardens. "We had learned speakers; John Palmer from Arnold Books was our first, with a talk on mystical plants, and following him, Frank Harvey, formerly with Duncan and Davies conducted a propagation demonstration and workshop."

In spring, a caravan was set up by the band rotunda in the daffodil woodland, where coffee and muffins were served and information dispensed about the Friends and the Gardens. Friends of the Adelaide Gardens were hosted at a lunch in the Information Centre. The first spring meeting witnessed Adrienne's distinctively innovative flair: "For a delicious breakfast and time for a walk in the Gardens in the freshness of spring", the notice read. A big crowd attended.

"We decided at least ten years ago that we should have walks for members, and later we developed walks for the public. We would study up for walks during Heritage Week and for our themed Saturday walks. One of mine was called Gentlemen in My Garden, using Fay Clayton's

book of the same name (I got her permission). It was about plants named after men. That was fun."

Plants for the yearly plant sale were initially accessed from the perennial border and potted up by the staff. Later, with help from the Friends, Brian Appleton and Averill Biddick from the Information Centre ran the plant sale in the yard. "We would be handing out programmes and information about the Friends. In those days, if you were a Friend you got a discount." It was a good way of extending membership, which rose to nearly 400 in five years.

The Information Centre was built in 1987, and Friends staffed it for two-hours each Friday. "Initially it was awkward for Garden staff to have Friends all around the place. There was a lot of concern about what our role would be. The concept for a Friends' organisation had only recently come out of big Gardens like Kew, and it was a new idea."

Friends' meetings were held in the Information Centre. "For the first evening meeting Warwick Scadden strung hired lights from the bridge to the Information Centre, but during the meeting they were stolen. In the end we paid for permanent lighting to be installed so we could have evening meetings."

Adrienne has consistently brought ideas from overseas to the Friends. "I get a lot of information from my sister in Vancouver and other overseas contacts about what their botanic gardens are doing, what themes they have for walks. Breakfast with the Birds was an idea from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. In 1996 when I went to Britain I got information from Kew about training guides. That information went to Neil and Faye Fleming, and adapted for the new guide-training programme here in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens three years ago.

Like Max Visch, Adrienne has taken more tours through the Gardens than she can remember. Despite study and careful planning and her naturally fine manners and good communication skills, she found it quite hard doing Neil and Faye Fleming's professional guide-training course. "I'd always just done it and never thought about

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whether I was doing it right or wrong. I just enjoyed the people and responded to them." Adrienne's approach has always been plant stories rather than botanical descriptions. "I can't talk about parallel veins in leaf structure, but I've amassed a huge library and a lot of stories about plants and their background."

In 2003 Adrienne represented the Friends at a conference for Guides in botanic gardens in Canberra. When she returned, fired up with ideas, the issue of the newly vacant Robert McDougall Art Gallery confronted the committee. They put enormous energy into submitting a business plan, recommending that the gallery become part of the Botanic Gardens (and thus offering a suitable space for lectures). Adrienne's knowledge of British, Australian and North American botanic gardens contributed to the plan, as did information from newsletters exchanged with botanic gardens in other parts of the globe, a project she herself had instigated. It was a serious loss to miss out on such a desirable facility.

The Friends have moved on. The plant sale has become the Friends' endeavour, and they now have their own potting-up space and potting-up team, in which Adrienne played a part for some time. "We would ring members to join the roster for the plant sale. People said it made them feel part of it, and they enjoyed being asked. Now we have seasonal sales; they're more manageable but not so inclusive of the wider membership." The Information Centre now offers comprehensive botanical displays and is sadly no longer available for meetings. It was a lovely experience walking into the Gardens for our meetings, Adrienne says.

One of her greatest joys is to go into the Gardens and just enjoy them. "When I planned my overseas trip this year, because I was going to be by myself, I planned it all around botanical gardens and the great plant hunters who had supplied them. The whole itinerary was to do with learning about gardens, plants and trees with connections to the men who discovered them. My son Torrie gave me a book called Remarkable Trees. In it was a photograph of the avenue of monkey puzzles at Bicton in Exeter, so I made that one of my stops. I've always been particularly interested in monkey puzzles."

Interviewing Adrienne Moore, one realises a large chunk of her life is a seriously dedicated and informed unpaid job in the service of the Botanic

Gardens. What drives her? "Well, it's as much the people as the plants, I must say, because you meet such nice people through plants and gardens. I think in all the work I've done over the years for schools and church and Girl Guides, gardens and plant stalls bring out the best in people. Everybody is happy, and it's healthy in the outdoors. "And I believe that there is particular importance in the space in the Botanic Gardens, not only as plant collections, but in giving people tranquillity and fresh air, which is especially valuable to the growing number of people who don't own gardens. I went to a garden centre recently and got talking about how the wide choice of plants that we used to have is no longer available, and the owner said, well, people are building grand homes on very small sections; there will be a little bit of shade and garden and perhaps a sunny BBQ area, but that limits what you can grow. He said people now want instant colour and easy care."

Such a comment concerns Adrienne. "I've always tried very hard when I've been guiding local people in the Botanic Gardens to promote different types of plants. I say, this would be lovely at home, have you tried this variety? When the early settlers came here, they had to bring their own seeds and plants, but very soon nurseries established, and soon we had such a tremendous choice. I mean, in the early days, if you look at some of those plant lists for fruit trees, it is astounding. From the middle 1850s there was a huge amount of material coming in from all over the world to Britain and then on to New Zealand. So I look at a plant and think, my goodness, we can go to the nursery and buy that, but what has happened before to get it to the nursery? It's good to be inspiring people about their origins and the difficult journeys of plants."

Assembling the Friends' Newsletter has been Adrienne's task since the beginning, when she and President Warwick Harris produced it. Today it is around 12 A4 pages and is started about a month ahead of mailout. Apart from articles, as much on the Botanic Gardens as possible, there's the President's and the Curator's reports. Adrienne's wish is for articles by section gardeners as to what's doing well and looks good.

The hardest work is devising the Friends' programme. Although the guiding group has now taken over the walks Adrienne and Max used to plan, and there's now a newsletter distribution team (and she was once involved in that, too), the programme still takes "a huge amount of time".

In her long-time and wide-ranging commitment to the Friends of Christchurch Botanic Gardens, what does Adrienne enjoy the most? "It's giving people the Wow Factor about the plants and their history, inspiring them to look more carefully when they go to a nursery or bring their children to the Botanic Gardens. Encouraging people, I'm always doing that. I used to bring potted piggy-back plants to give children at the plant sale and old garden magazines for their mothers."

Although she would protest it with her customary modesty, drawing attention to the fact that everyone works as a team in the Friends, and that she's consistently had the support and encouragement of her husband Cam, there is no doubt that in the Botanic Gardens Adrienne Moore is a uniquely Wow Factor herself.

Diana Madgin

### New Zealand Mistletoes

Family: *Loranthaceae* (law-anth-ay-see). There are five native genera in New Zealand and 900 species of mistletoe in the world.

*Peraxilla tetrapetala* is a red flowered native mistletoe growing as a bushy, much-branch parasitic shrub up to 1m high and 2m across found growing on mountain beech trees. It flowers from October to January. Sadly these days many blossoms are lost to possums but earlier last century the ground would be sprinkled with red petals under beech trees.

These parasitic flowering plants attach themselves to the stems of the host plant. Mistletoes have green leaves to assist their own photosynthesis but they penetrate their host plants with modified roots to gain water and nutrients.

The fruits of mistletoes are specialised for either insect or bird-dispersal. Tuis and bellbirds eat the fruit of the showy bird-pollinated flowers and the seed passes through the gut to fall on the branch of a host plant.

Two smaller mistletoe species, *Ileostylus micranthus* and *Tupeia antarctica* are common in the South Island but have inconspicuous insect-pollinated flowers. Both grow on various native and introduced host trees and shrubs. *Ileostylus* often occurs on coprosmas, pokaka (*Elaeocarpus*

*hookerianus*), kanuka, native brooms and totara. *Tupeia* is found on five-finger, matipo, lacebark and the introduced tree lucerne. Both may eventually kill their hosts and themselves as well.

*Alepis flavidus* is bird-pollinated with yellow flowers which turn orange with age. It is often found on native beech trees. A dwarf mistletoe, *Korthalsella lindsayi* is leafless with beads of flattened stem segments and tiny flowering stalks. It can be found on matagouri.

In England there is only one mistletoe (*Viscum album*). It commonly grows on soft-wooded trees such as the poplar, silver fir and apple. It rarely attacks the oak, and when it did so, it was an object of worship to the Druids of early Britain. (Source: Webb, Johnson & Sykes; Flowering Plants of NZ DSIR Botany, Christchurch 1990)

Russell Moffat, Friends' Guide

[*Viscum* means "sticky or clammy" and one source suggests "mist" means "different" and "tan", a "twig"]

### Charles Plumier Plant Hunter

Charles Plumier was a Frenchman born in April 1646. At age 16 he entered the order of Minims and studied maths, physics, made tools and became a good draughtsman and painter. He was sent to the monastery of Trinata dei Monti in Rome, where he studied botany. Returning to France he went on excursions round Provence and the Alps to study plants.

In 1689 the government sent him and another scientist, Surian, to the French colonies of Martinique and Haiti in the West Indies, to study particularly medicinal herbs and the bark of the cinchona tree for obtaining quinine. Surian did the medicinal studies and Plumier did the botanical drawings and observations. They quarrelled and Plumier published his work separately. In 1693 he was appointed Royal Botanist by Louis XIV and went on 2 more journeys to the West Indies and Central America. He found and named begonias after M. Begon, superintendent of the port of Marseilles and ex-governor of Santo Domingo, and fuchsias after a German botanist Leonhard Fuchs. On the way to his the 4<sup>th</sup> trip he got pleurisy and died at the age of 58. All his useful work was done in the space of 15 years.

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He published several books with wonderful plates showing plants, especially ferns. At his death Plumier left thirty-one manuscript volumes containing descriptions, and about 6000 drawings, 4000 of which were of plants, while the remainder reproduced American animals of nearly all classes, especially birds and fish, probably a larger number of drawings than were executed by any other artist. They are in the Library of Paris and in that of the Jardin des Plantes. No-one has managed to do copies of his drawings anywhere near as good.

By his observations in Martinique, Plumier proved that the red dye cochineal belongs to the animal

kingdom and should not be classed as a plant. It is produced from scale insects *dactylopius coccii* which suck sap from a prickly pear cactus of the genus *Opuntia*. The dye was only brought to Europe commercially by the conquistadors in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

18<sup>th</sup> century botanists all admired Charles Plumier as the most industrious botanist of the age. He did work on plant classification, but Linnaeus came later and his work prevailed. Linnaeus named the plant genus *Plumeria* in his honour. We know it as frangipani.

Pat Whitman Guide

### Wollemi Pine

Fast facts from [www.wollemipine.com](http://www.wollemipine.com)

<b>Claim to fame</b>	One of the world's oldest and rarest trees
<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Wollemia nobilis</i>
<b>Family</b>	Araucariaceae
<b>Relatives</b>	Kauri, Norfolk Island, Hoop, Bunya and Monkey Puzzle pines
<b>When discovered</b>	1994
<b>Where discovered</b>	200km west of Sydney in a rainforest gorge within the 500,000 hectare Wollemi National Park in the Blue Mountains
<b>Discovered by</b>	David Noble, a NSW National Parks and Wildlife Officer and avid bushwalker
<b>Age</b>	The Wollemi Pine belongs to the 200 million year old Araucariaceae family
<b>Oldest known fossil</b>	90 million years
<b>Wild population</b>	Less than 100 mature trees
<b>Characteristics</b>	Conifer with attractive, unusual dark green foliage, bubbly bark and sprouts multiple trunks
<b>Growth habit</b>	Fast growing in light, favours acid soils, and temperatures from -5-45°C
<b>Size</b>	The largest wild Wollemi Pine in the rainforest gorge is 40m tall with a main trunk of 1.2m wide
<b>Release date</b>	2005/2006
<b>Conservation</b>	Royalties from sales of the Wollemi Pine to support conservation of the Wollemi Pine and other rare and endangered plant species
<b>Best use</b>	Unique gift for special occasions, a stunning patio and indoor plant and feature tree for parks and large gardens.

There is concern over the recent report from the New South Wales Department of the Environment and Conservation confirming *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a soil borne fungal disease has been found in Wollemi pine trees in the wild. Extraordinary security precautions have been taken over the 11 years since the trees were discovered but it is likely that the disease has been introduced by "unauthorised visitors". The affected trees will be treated with fungicide and extra surveillance put in place.

For an exciting read, go to **The Wollemi Pine, by James Woodford**. The original book has been updated in this new edition, due out 21 November 2005 and has an additional chapter on the most recent events. Non-fiction paperback ISBN: 1 920885 48 X.

## Friends' Groups

### Guiding Group Report

The new guides have blended well with the first group and they are now taking their turns at guiding visitors in the Botanic Gardens. For some, taking their first guided walk with their first customer was very exciting. Tourist numbers were generally down for September and this reflected on our guiding numbers. We took fifteen people through the Gardens on 'The Daily Walks' but had a number of group bookings from Garden Clubs and Elderhostel groups. Once again we contributed to *Heritage Week* with our guiding at Mona Vale. This was disappointing because of the weather and only 24 people were guided through this beautiful site. An additional Garden Club group of 12 were guided by Diana Madgin. We guided 50 visitors in the Gardens during October.

Our September training was a session with Brian Appleton, BG Staff member, who brought us up to date with the changes in the Gardens and in our October training session the three guides who attended the Voluntary Guide Conference in Melbourne spoke about different aspects and highlights. (See the separate report). Each of the three conference attendees wishes to thank the Friends for their financial backing to attend the conference. This was a significant support because most other attendees had to pay their own fares and fees.

The whole Guiding group recognizes the importance of the backing by the Friends' Committee, in terms of advertising, signs, badges and speakers. Yes, we do cover our costs and add to the funds but your support and interest is vital. Please continue to publicize our Guided Walks to any individuals or groups who may be interested. (Depart daily at 1.30pm from Museum entrance to Gardens on Rolleston Ave. \$5 Enquiries to Pat Ph 3843475

Faye Fleming Guide

### Propagating Group report

The Propagators' area is now a walled garden; a new fence separates us from the Nursery yard with a metal farm gate allowing access. A sign will be put on the gate in due course so you will know where to find us. The fence gives us some protection from the wind and we have put up shelves in the corner for frost-tender plants. And we may be able to grow climbers up it! Work carries on to the rhythm of the well digging equipment in the yard and we shall all be glad of the new source of water for Gardens' irrigation in the summer.

We have more flowering plants to offer as the weather improves so check the newly painted forest green Trolley outside the Information Centre. The Bulb Sale went very well, as usual, and was augmented by sales of small conifers and early perennials, perennially popular. We have a list of the conifers we have grown from cuttings taken last spring from the Pinetum. (If you do not have email and would like this list please phone Helen.) There is such a wide variety of forms and colours in these small garden varieties that they deserve to be better known. Many make excellent tub and patio plants or lawn edgings; a pair of formal spires at your front door is worth considering. Others team well with bulbs as a foil and support to bright spring blooms. It appears that there are Friends who would be glad to help on the Propagation Teams but have not been contacted. We are very sorry this has happened; we certainly would be glad of help on all Teams and invite any willing worker to phone the Co-ordinator, Helen Constable, on 980-9358. Anyone already working in the Propagating Group would be happy to pass your name on as a prospective helper, so please do get in touch. We need extra hands at sales times as well. Donations of pots, washed or disinfected (bleach or Jeyes), are appreciated especially at this time of year. Please bring them to the Propagating Area or leave them at the Information Centre. Many thanks.

Helen Constable, Coordinator. 980-9358  
hrcon@paradise.net

**Potting Mix.** There have been deaths in Christchurch recently from Legionnaire's disease. Potting mix and compost can carry this and care must be taken to dampen down bags of mix and compost to prevent the dust from being inhaled.

## Snippets

### Subs reminder from Treasurer

Thank you to all those members now financial to 30 June 2006. If you have not paid your subscription, your second renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter. We ask that if you wish to continue to be a member of the Friends, please return your cheque and the renewal notice to PO Box 2553 Christchurch as soon as possible. Those who have paid your subs in the last two weeks please disregard this renewal notice. If you do not wish to renew this will be the last newsletter that you will receive.

Lesley Godkin, Treasurer

### Membership

We would be delighted to have an influx of new faces. Please make our activities known amongst your friends and acquaintances and bring them along to our events.

The aim of our Society is to Promote, Protect and Preserve the Botanic Gardens. Although we do not have a meeting space within the Botanic Gardens, we look forward to new facilities there eventually including a public lecture room. Our ongoing fundraising is more important than ever to enable us to support the Botanic Gardens in achieving the planned upgrade to a modern Botanic Garden. (Only 8 years to the 150th Anniversary in 2013). PLEASE DO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. THE BOTANIC GARDENS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.

### Volunteer Friends

Friends are asked to keep a record of the hours they spend on volunteer work for the Friends and the Botanic Gardens. Please give this information to your group coordinator monthly or send directly to Lesley Godkin Treasurer, for collating. These hours are useful statistics that we can use when applying for grants to further our work in the Botanic Gardens.

### Canterbury Botanical Art Society

The Canterbury Botanical Art Society will be holding a two day workshop at the Avic Hill Centre on 26 & 27 November. The guest tutor is Susan Worthington, a well known New Zealand Botanical Artist, who has studied overseas at both Kew and Chelsea and won a Silver medals at the RHS in 2004 and this year at the Birmingham Exhibition Centre. Susan was also commissioned to design stamps for New Zealand Post. At the workshop Susan's will be instructing members in watercolour techniques on the very tricky subject of "White Flowers' on white paper.

The Canterbury Botanical Art Society will be holding its next exhibition at Our City 10-19 February 2006 in conjunction with the Festival of Flowers and Romance.

Irene McBryde, Secretary CBAS

### Contact Numbers

President	David Moyle	358-8914
Vice President		
Immediate Past President	Faye Fleming	351-7798
Treasurer	Lesley Godkin	388 0043
Membership Secretary	Ruby Coleman	355-8811
Minutes Secretary	Jim Crook	358-5845
Committee Members	Dennis Preston	351-4131
	Don Bell	343-6699
	Elizabeth Wolff (03)	313-5046
	Robyn Gordon	388-7737
	Jay Rogers	365-1152
Outings/trips	Alison Fox	942-4989
Newsletter	Adrienne Moore	351-5915
Programme	Adrienne Moore	351-5915

### Education Subcommittee

Co-ordinator	Lynne Rowe	358-8412
Ex Officio	David Given	941-7583
	Jeremy Hawker	941-7580

### Helpers

Programme helper	Carolyn Collins	382-4212
Plant Sale	Helen Constable	980-9358
Newsletter mail out	Jean Norton	379-2464
Botanist	Bill Sykes	366-3844
Walks	Max Visch	338-2273
Guide Co-ordinator	Pat Whitman	384-3475
Enquiries	Info Centre	941-6840 x 7590
Computer	Sylvia Meek & Fay Jackson	
Newsletter layout	Maria Adamski	



**Friends of Christchurch Botanic Gardens Inc.**  
**Coming Events October-December 2005**

**Friends' Phone Contacts:**

President: David Moyle 358 8914    Immediate Past President: Faye Fleming 351 7798

Programme: Adrienne Moore 351 5915    Carolyn Collins 382 4212

Membership: Ruby Coleman 355 8811

A small charge is made at some meetings/events to cover expenses – as indicated.

A daily guided walk departs from the Museum entrance to the Gardens at 1.30pm Cost \$5.

For group bookings all the year for 'Introduction to the Gardens and Seasonal highlights walk' - phone 384 3475

All Friends' guided walks leave from the BG Information Centre unless otherwise noted.

All Botanic Gardens' Staff led walks/talks depart from outside \*Cunningham House near the Rose Garden. (On the fourth Tuesday of the month at 12.10pm, for 45 minutes.)

The Canterbury Horticultural Society rooms are at 57 Riccarton Avenue.

Sat 29 Oct    10.00am-2.00pm **Plant Sale. Perennials and Trees and Shrubs.** Stalls around the Palm near BG Information Centre.

Wed 16 Nov    7.30pm Talk by Derek Roozen on **The review of the Hagley Park Management Plan and Botanic Gardens' Redevelopment.** at Canterbury Horticultural Society. \$3 followed by supper. Derek is a Planner for Parks and Waterways within the Greenspace Unit of the City Council.

Sat 19 Nov    2.00pm Guided Walk **Spring into Summer** with Friends' Guide, Denise Davison. \$2

Tue 22 Nov    12.10 pm \*Guided Walk **The Woodland Gardens - Primula and Heritage Rose Gardens** with Staff member Richard Poole.

Sat 3 Dec    4.00pm -6.30pm **Christmas function and Petanque** at Petanque Club. Entrance off Armagh St Carpark. Please bring a plate of finger food to share and \$\$\$\$\$ for raffles.

Thu 8 Dec    8.00pm Talk. **'Rare and Unusual Bulbs from Kew's Alpine House'**. With **Tony Hall** from Kew Gardens - to be held in the **Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville Street, Riccarton.** There will be a **\$5.00 cover charge**, plant sales and supper as well as a display of locally grown plants for all to see.

The **New Zealand Alpine Garden Society** invites members of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens to hear Tony's talk. He has been invited to New Zealand by the Iris Society for their conference. They have asked NZAGS to share some of the cost of his trip to NZ and we are delighted to do so by offering all keen gardeners the opportunity to hear Tony. He comes with a considerable reputation as an excellent speaker and we are looking forward to hearing him speak. Enquiries 384 3364.

Sat 17 Dec    2.00pm Guided Walk **Plants associated with Christmas.** Friends' Guides. \$2  
**Everyone is welcome at our events. Please bring your friends.**

# Coming Events

## Friends of Christchurch Botanic Gardens

### Insert to Summer Newsletter no. 64 December 2005

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**2006**

Sat 14 Jan 2.00pm **Guided Walk** – New Zealand Native plant Cultivars.  
 With **Friends' Guide, Neil O'Brien**. \$2

Tue 17 Jan 12.10pm **Guided Walk**, Herbaceous Border with **Botanic Gardens' Staff Member David Barwick**

**Floral Festival** Fri 10 Feb - Sun 19 Feb. See the Press for programme.

Mon 13 Feb 10.30am Festival time **Guided walk** Summer Highlights with Friends' Guides \$2

Wed 15 Feb 5.30pm Festival time **Guided walk** Summer Highlights with Friends' Guides \$2

- Sat 18 Feb     **Plant Sale** 10.00am till 2.00pm - Stalls around the Palm by Information Centre.
- Sat 18 Feb     2.00pm Festival Time **Guided Walk** Summer Highlights with Friends' Guides \$2
- Tue 21 Feb     12.10pm **Guided Walk with BG Staff member** on Dazzling Dahlias, followed by Friends' BYO picnic lunch. (Details of place given on the day depending on weather. Lunch held wet or fine.)
- Mon 13 Mar    7.30pm Talk - **Gardens, Gardeners and Gardening with Margaret Long** at Canterbury Horticultural Centre. Bring your friends and family  
Cost \$3 includes supper.
- Margaret is a member of the Friends and has been a keen gardener for many years. Her garden at Frensham in Old Taitapu Rd attracts many visitors, including the Friends. In 1999 Margaret took over the business of Gardens Unlimited and has brought prominent speakers from overseas to lecture in New Zealand on gardens and gardening.  
As a tour leader Margaret has taken groups to many international gardens and hosted visitors in New Zealand.
- Sat 18 Mar     2.00pm **Guided Walk** -Trees suitable for home gardens with **Friends' Guide Don Bell** \$2
- Tue 21 Mar     12.10pm **Guided Walk with BG Staff member**
- Sat 15 Apr  
Easter         2.00pm **Guided Walk** - Autumn Colours with **Friends' Guide Max Visch.** Cost \$2
- Tue 18 Apr     12.10pm **Guided Walk with BG staff member**

*Advance notice*

- Wed 19 Apr    6.00pm         *BYO shared meal at Canterbury Horticultural Centre followed by slide show... "Round the world in 80 Plants" with FBG members. Full details and cost to be advised.*
- Sun 14 May     2.00pm Talk on *The Christchurch Exhibition of 1906 and the effects on our gardens, with Laurence Eagle,* at Canterbury Horticultural Centre. *Full details and cost to be advised.*
- Sun 25 Jun     2.00pm Talk on *Pohutukawas and Ratas with author Philip Simpson* at Canterbury Horticultural Centre. *Full details and cost to be advised.*

**All are welcome to our events. Please encourage your friends and families to join in our activities.**