Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Summer Talk Series 2026

Sunday 15 November in the Kiosk

A History of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens: from a shingle pit to a beautiful city space

Margaret Metherell, President of the Friends

Come and join us to hear about the interesting history of our Botanic gardens. Margaret Metherell, President of the Friends, will take us through the history of the Botanic Gardens, focussing mainly on the first one hundred years and telling a little of its story: large open shingle pits, sand dunes covered with fern and matagouri, grasses, tutu shrubs, wild Spanish speargrass—with not a tree to be seen. It is a story of financial struggles, hard work, disappointments, yet with generous benefactors and many successes laying the foundation for years to come and the beautiful Gardens we see today.

First Curator's House
1871



The gateway to the Gardens from what used to be Antigua Street, now Rolleston Ave



Venue: The Kiosk

Date: Sunday 15 November

Time: 4.00 pm (afternoon tea available from 3.30 pm)

Cost: Members and CHS members $5.00, non members $10.00