

3.8 Brendon Patrick (Paddy) Mansfield 1945 – March 1948 Morris Barnett Director 1946 -1955

Brendon Mansfield was appointed as McPherson's replacement in October 1945. One year later, on September 16, 1946, control of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park was transferred from the Domains Board to the Christchurch City Council. The Superintendent of the Council's Parks and Plantations Department, Morris Barnett, assumed control as Director of the Botanic Gardens, Parks and Reserves in 1946. Under Barnett, Brendon Mansfield continued as Assistant Director of Botanic Gardens, Parks and Reserves and in 1950 John O. Taylor was appointed Assistant Curator.

Mansfield, like earlier Curators and Head Gardeners, had been trained in the British Isles and also had additional hands-on horticultural experience in nursery positions following his formal training. Although only in the role for a brief time, Mansfield was proactive in rebuilding the Garden's post-war plant collection through an international seed exchange network that had been established in the inter-war period. In this way he was instrumental in sending significant quantities of New Zealand indigenous seed around the world, an achievement recognised by *The Star*, who reported in 1946 that Christchurch [Botanic Gardens] was believed to be the most active institution in seed exchange in New Zealand.

3.8.1 Botanic Gardens

Prior to control of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park passing to the City Council, the Domains Board sanctioned two significant projects, the cost of which was met by the Christchurch Rotary Club. The first, a new paddling pool, was constructed on the site of Young's 1918 pool and was opened on February 1944.⁵⁶³ Two years later a proposal by the Rotary to construct a pavilion to the rear of the pool was approved by the Board. This was financed largely from a donation made by Mrs Ellen Herbert in memory of her husband Henry, and its construction marked the 25th anniversary of the Christchurch Rotary Club.⁵⁶⁴ (Refer Volume 3:1.9.2 for further details.)

The construction of the pavilion was seen by Rotary as an important final part of their greater playground development project in the Botanic Gardens. It is not certain what prompted their construction of a pavilion but redevelopment of the playground area occurred at a time when local body policy was being formulated in response to the Physical Welfare and Recreation Act 1937. Under this Act minimum standards recommended for Local Body Parks and Reserves Departments outlined the need for restful and shady retreats for those supervising children's play.⁵⁶⁵

Both the paddling pool and the pavilion were located in what was initially known as the "Herbert Memorial Playground", named in recognition of Henry Herbert and the substantial donation made in his honour. It is possible that Mrs Herbert's donation also helped to fund the employment of the playground's female attendant⁵⁶⁶ and may also have contributed towards the cost of importing play equipment from England. This was deemed necessary as no suitable equipment was procurable in New Zealand at that time.⁵⁶⁷ Slides, see-saws, swings, horizontal ladders and a merry-go-round were

⁵⁶³ 'Visit of Inspection', *Star-Sun*, 7 January 1942, CH343/80d, CCCA; Photograph of the Rotarians presenting the Board with cheque for the pool in *The Rotarian*, June 1944, p. 45

⁵⁶⁴ <http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/global/australia/newzealand/christchurch/> Accessed June 2011

⁵⁶⁵ Department of Internal Affairs (1940) *Parks and Reserves: A policy for Local Bodies* p. 22-23

⁵⁶⁶ This was still a paid position in 1976

⁵⁶⁷ Report of the Abattoir and Reserves Committee, 16 May 1949, CH380 C/105, CCCA

purchased and in 1958 a metal rocking horse was ordered.⁵⁶⁸ The horse is understood to have been removed when the playground was remodelled under Warwick Scadden.⁵⁶⁹ A drinking fountain, dedicated to the memory of Frank George,⁵⁷⁰ was added as part of the playground facilities.⁵⁷¹

Other improvements undertaken during Mansfield's term of office included the formation of a delphinium collection in 1944 and the addition of a collection of new and uncommon plants endemic to the Campbell Islands. These had been collected by Walter Brockie during a biological expedition undertaken with the Meteorological party to the sub-Antarctic, and were placed in the Native Section within the Alpine (Rock) Garden.

In July 1945 a number of valuable specimens were lost, and others disfigured, by a snow storm of devastating proportions. Extensive damage was caused to trees on the front and Archery Lawns, and in the old and new Native Sections. Documenting this damage in the *Journal of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture*, Walter Brockie described the old Native Section as a scene of desolation. In other areas of the Botanic Gardens he reported that trees had been variously “*blasted as by hand grenades*”, “*pollarded*” or “*rendered prostrate*.”⁵⁷²

In March 1948, Mansfield died in tragic circumstances when he was overcome with Cyno-gas while fumigating one of the propagation houses. It is possible that a tree was planted to commemorate his association with the Botanic Gardens although no record of this has been located.

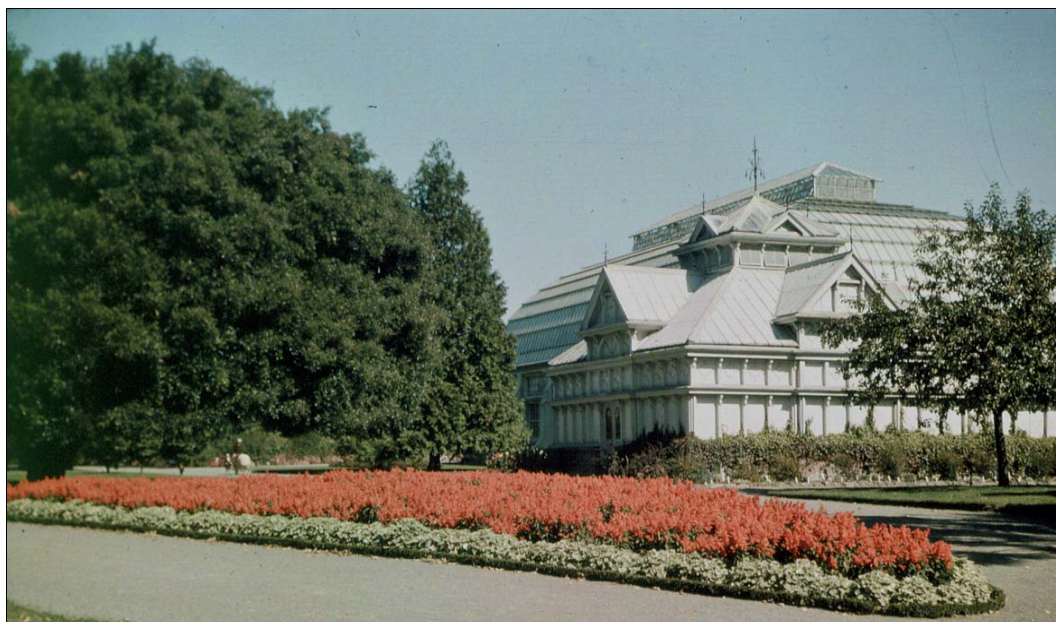


Figure 3.81. The original Townend House with Cuningham House to the rear, late 1940s
Source: Historical photograph collection, 087, BGPA

⁵⁶⁸ Report, 20 June 1958, Reserves Committee Reports June 1958-October 1958, CH355 Box 20, CCCA

⁵⁶⁹ The horse was immortalised by Ria Bancroft in her 1963 sculpture 'Rocking-horse ride'. This work is held by the Suter Gallery, Nelson

⁵⁷⁰ Frank George was a member of the Domains Board and Chairman of the Gardens and Parks Committee in the 1930s and early 1940s. He was responsible for the redesign of the Godley Memorial Tablet brickwork in 1933.

⁵⁷¹ Report, 10 June 1946, Reserves Committee Reports April 1958-March 1947, CH355 Box 9, CCCA

⁵⁷² *Journal of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture*, Volume 15, No. 2, January 1946, pp. 7- 8

3.9 Morris John Barnett Director 1946-1955 Huia Gilpin Assistant Director 1949 -1955

On assuming his additional role as Director of the Botanic Gardens in 1946, Barnett outlined his plan for the future direction of both the Gardens and Hagley Park, noting *“to continue the status quo or develop [the Gardens] as a glorified pleasance would be a comparatively easy matter and one which would give satisfaction to a large section of the public. Never the less such a policy would not fulfil the purpose for which the Botanic Gardens was instituted.”* He proposed to continue to provide attractive displays for the public's pleasure but considered the incorporation of additional educational and scientific features a necessity. Whereas these had historically been developed along scientific and botanical lines, Barnett proposed that new features should be designed to *“...be as attractive as art and ingenuity can make them.”* When presented in this form, he believed they would be of general interest to the scientifically uninitiated and better fulfil the educational goal of a botanic garden.⁵⁷³ In line with this approach Barnett laid out plans for a number of improvements and new features and secured the finance for some of these. Many of these were implemented following his retirement.



Figure 3.82. South walk in 1941 showing the popular displays Barnett proposed to retain
Source: Postcard, L. Beaumont private collection

3.9.1 Botanic Gardens

One early initiative was the further expansion of the Botanic Gardens into North Hagley Park with the development of the Murray-Aynsley Lawn. Named after long-serving Board Member and past Chairman Hugh Murray-Aynsley, this vacant portion of ground lying between Harman's Grove and the Public Hospital was formerly part of the Acclimatisation Society's grounds. It was ploughed, levelled and planted with trees that Barnett had procured in 1951 on a visit to England. In 1952 and 1953 a Rose Species Garden was laid out on the south side of this lawn.⁵⁷⁴ This garden contained the progenitors of those roses with which the general public was familiar, as well as other wild, rambling

⁵⁷³ M. Barnett 'Christchurch Gardens and Hagley Park', 7- page paper dated 18 November 1946, CH355 Box 9,CCCA

⁵⁷⁴ Duff, unpaginated

and climbing species that were not able to be accommodated in the Botanic Gardens' formal Rosary. Approximately 68 species and varieties were planted in beds bisected by grass paths, and rustic fences were erected on the southern boundary to support vigorous rambling species.⁵⁷⁵ A number of roses for this garden were gifted by Nancy Steen⁵⁷⁶ from her renowned Auckland Rosary in 1960.⁵⁷⁷

The Murray-Aynsley Lawn was further developed in 1955 with the creation of a Primula and Waterside Garden on the western end of the lawn. This was formed alongside the Addington Brook (formerly known as the Addington Creek), and additional plantings of over 22 distinct species of dwarf rhododendron were made in the winter of 1956. The seeds of these rhododendrons had been obtained from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens some time earlier.⁵⁷⁸

Another significant gift received by the Botanic Gardens was a *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood) seedling. This was gifted by A. (Sandy) W. Anderson, Curator of Parks, Timaru Borough Council in 1949, and was one of 36 seedlings that he had successfully raised from seed received from the Arnold Arboretum one year earlier. Anderson's 36 seedlings were the first Dawn Redwoods in New Zealand.⁵⁷⁹

Concurrent with this the long border garden abutting the Christ's College wall on the north was cleared of trees and shrubs, edged with stone from Victoria Park, and replanted with some 50 different clematis, as well as delphiniums, Canterbury bells, hollyhocks and other varieties of climbing plants.⁵⁸⁰ The ageing *Trachycarpus* on the South Walk were removed, and other changes to established features included the modification of McPherson's Rosary in 1954. The concrete mirror pool was broken up and replaced with a sundial, financed by a donation of £80 from Christchurch resident Thomas Stevenson.⁵⁸¹ The sundial was designed by Trethewey and Son Ltd and was positioned on an elevated random-cut stone platform.

Building on the success of a heath garden which had been established in Beckenham Park, an extension to the Rock Garden was constructed to accommodate a specialist Erica and allied genera garden. This was an extensive collection which, unlike the Beckenham Park display, was labelled and classified.

A long-planned for Fern House was completed in 1955. Designed by the City Architect's Office, this was constructed opposite the Townend House, overlooking the lakelet and was stocked through a series of staff botanising trips and plant donations from other institutions.⁵⁸² Planning for other

⁵⁷⁵ This was remodelled in 1999 and is now known as the Heritage Rose Garden

⁵⁷⁶ Nancy Steen was among the world authorities on old roses and devoted much of her life to cultivating and studying different species and early cultivars

⁵⁷⁷ Assistant Curator's Report, July 31- August 27, 1960, Reserves Committee Reports, CH355 Box 10, CCCA

⁵⁷⁸ Report 23 September 1955, Reserves Committee Reports September 1955- December 1955, CH355, Box 19, CCCA; *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol. VII, No; 1, December 1966

⁵⁷⁹ Letter, H. Gilpin to Conservator of Forests, New Zealand Forest Service, 5 December, 1955, CH 377, Box 4, CCCA; Anderson, A. W. (1949) 'The Dawn Redwood: A living relic of the Far Past' *The New Zealand Gardener* June 1, 1949, pp. 732-736; Cadwallader, B. G. (2009) NZ *Metasequoia* - First Generation Timeline, unpublished paper

⁵⁸⁰ *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol VII, No.III, June 1967

⁵⁸¹ Reserves Department Report, 22 July 1954, CH377 Box 22/51, CCCA

⁵⁸² *Ibid*

necessary new buildings was set in train by Barnett and, prior to his retirement, he successfully lobbied the City Council to raise a £20,000 loan to enable the construction of a library and staff offices (extant but pending removal in 2013) as well as new and replacement Show Houses for the under-glass plant collections. These buildings were realised by later Directors/Assistant Directors.⁵⁸³

The Eveleyn Couzins Memorial Gateway

Under Barnett's directorship the Eveleyn Couzins Memorial Gateway was added to the commemorative fabric of the Botanic Gardens in 1949, although approval for its construction had been given by the Domains Board as one of its final major decisions. (Refer Volume 3:1.9.1)

The memorial's design was the work of Heathcote Helmore (Helmore and Cotterill Architects)⁵⁸⁴ with landscape input from Edgar Taylor, the City Council's landscape architect⁵⁸⁵ (refer Volume 3: appendix 4). A semi-circular form was chosen to strengthen the east/west walk from the entrance beside the Museum to the Archery Lawn, with the intention that visitors would be drawn on through the gateway to attractions in the core of the Botanic Gardens. This was achieved by the memorial's orientation which set up a strong axial relationship between the Museum gates and the stone entrance piers. Its placement, necessitated an extension of the main walkway, alterations to the subsidiary pathways in the vicinity of the memorial and the loss of two pines on the Pine Mound.⁵⁸⁶

Changes were made in the shrubberies and to the general garden lay-out fronting the McDougall Art Gallery *"to bring these into conformity with the memorial plan"*, and the Peacock Fountain was dismantled and retired to complete the redesign of the area.⁵⁸⁷ The fountain's pool was reduced in size, its edges reconfigured and encircled in concrete, and the two rocky islets removed and replaced with one single fountain jet.

As previously noted, the Couzins Memorial did little to help incorporate the McDougall Art Gallery into the overall landscape of the Botanic Gardens, and dissatisfaction was still being expressed in 1957 concerning the marginalising effect that the memorial had upon the Gallery.⁵⁸⁸

⁵⁸³ *A Garden Century*, p. 50

⁵⁸⁴ Proposed Design for the Eveleyn Couzins Memorial, Heathcote Helmore. Plan reference: 889, CMDRC

⁵⁸⁵ Report 14 March 1949, Reserves Committee Reports October 1948-April 1949, CH355, Box 9, CCCA

⁵⁸⁶ Abattoir and Reserves Committee Report, 29 August 1949, CH380 C/105, CCCA

⁵⁸⁷ Barnett, Reserves Committee Report, 28 February 1955, CH355, Box 19, CCCA; 'Peacock Fountain Conservation Plan' prepared by George Lucking 1995, p. 6

⁵⁸⁸ Interdepartmental Memo from Town Clerk to Director of Reserves dated 19 November 1957, Reserves Committee Reports, September 1957- February 1958, CH355 Box 20, CCCA

Commemorative planting

Other commemorative fabric introduced at this time included the 1953 Arbor Day plantings by the Governor-General Sir Willoughby Norrie and Lady Norrie, who each planted a new strain of flowering apple (*Malus 'Oporto'* & *M. 'Lemoinei'*) chosen by Barnett on his visit to England.⁵⁸⁹ These were planted on the Armstrong Lawn. Both trees were removed in 1998 for a proposed new entrance into the Botanic Gardens from Rolleston Avenue.⁵⁹⁰ Other commemorative trees included two *Liquidamber styraciflua* planted on the Armstrong Lawn in 1953. These were planted by the Mayor, Robert Macfarlane, and the Town Clerk. At the time of their planting, it was suggested that one of the trees be named the 'Coronation Tree' to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and the second the 'Hillary Tree' to mark [Sir] Edmund Hillary's conquest of Mt Everest, an event that occurred at the same time as the coronation.⁵⁹¹

One year later in January 1954, the Queen herself planted a Maple (*Acer platanoides 'Goldsworth purple'*) on the Archery Lawn on the occasion of the Royal Garden Party. This was ring barked by anti-royalist protesters and removed in 1986.⁵⁹² Additional Rotary International trees were added on the Rotary Lawn and, in a departure from accepted practice, the first outdoor public art exhibition was held in the Botanic Gardens in mid 1954.⁵⁹³

In describing the Botanic Gardens' features in 1951, Barnett noted:

"The herbaceous border has a length of five hundred and fifty feet and is twenty feet wide, the exotic rock garden covers an area of three quarters of an acre and the New Zealand alpine garden and Cockayne memorial over half an acre, and the native garden of indigenous plants three acres. There are bog gardens and water gardens, an azalea garden and rhododendron dell. The Cuninghame House covers an area of six thousand two hundred and forty square feet. The Townend conservatory covers an area of two thousand square feet... There are seven propagating houses. There is a large tea kiosk and a children's playground fully equipped with amusement devices including a large paddling pool. The great glory of the Gardens however, is the magnificent trees from all parts of the world."

Immediately prior to Barnett's retirement in 1955, the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park (and a number of Christchurch's other city reserves) were profiled in the periodical *New Zealand Gardener*. The resultant article praised the originality of the bedding arrangements. These, it declared, cleverly showed the various forms and classes of a particular species, while the artistic displays of bedding plants prompted a new appreciation of old-fashioned plants. The high colour and interest of the hardy heath collection was also noted and much was made of Barnett's overall achievement in *"effectively combining a botanic and pleasure garden to give the widest satisfaction to the community."*⁵⁹⁴

⁵⁸⁹ Reserves Committee Report, 24 August 1953, CH355 Box 20, CCCA; Photograph in *The Press*, 6 August 1953

⁵⁹⁰ This redesign of the Rolleston Avenue entrance into the Botanic Gardens did not proceed

⁵⁹¹ Report of the Abattoir and Reserves Committee, 20 July 1953, CH380 C/99, CCCA

⁵⁹² *The Press*, 21 January 1954 p. 8; *The Press*, 22 April 1986

⁵⁹³ Reserves Committee Report June 1954, CH355 Box 19, CCCA

⁵⁹⁴ *New Zealand Gardener*, 1 April 1955, pp. 608 - 617



Figure 3.83. Hyacinth bedding arrangement 1950's
Source: PB0409-6 V.C.Browne & Son

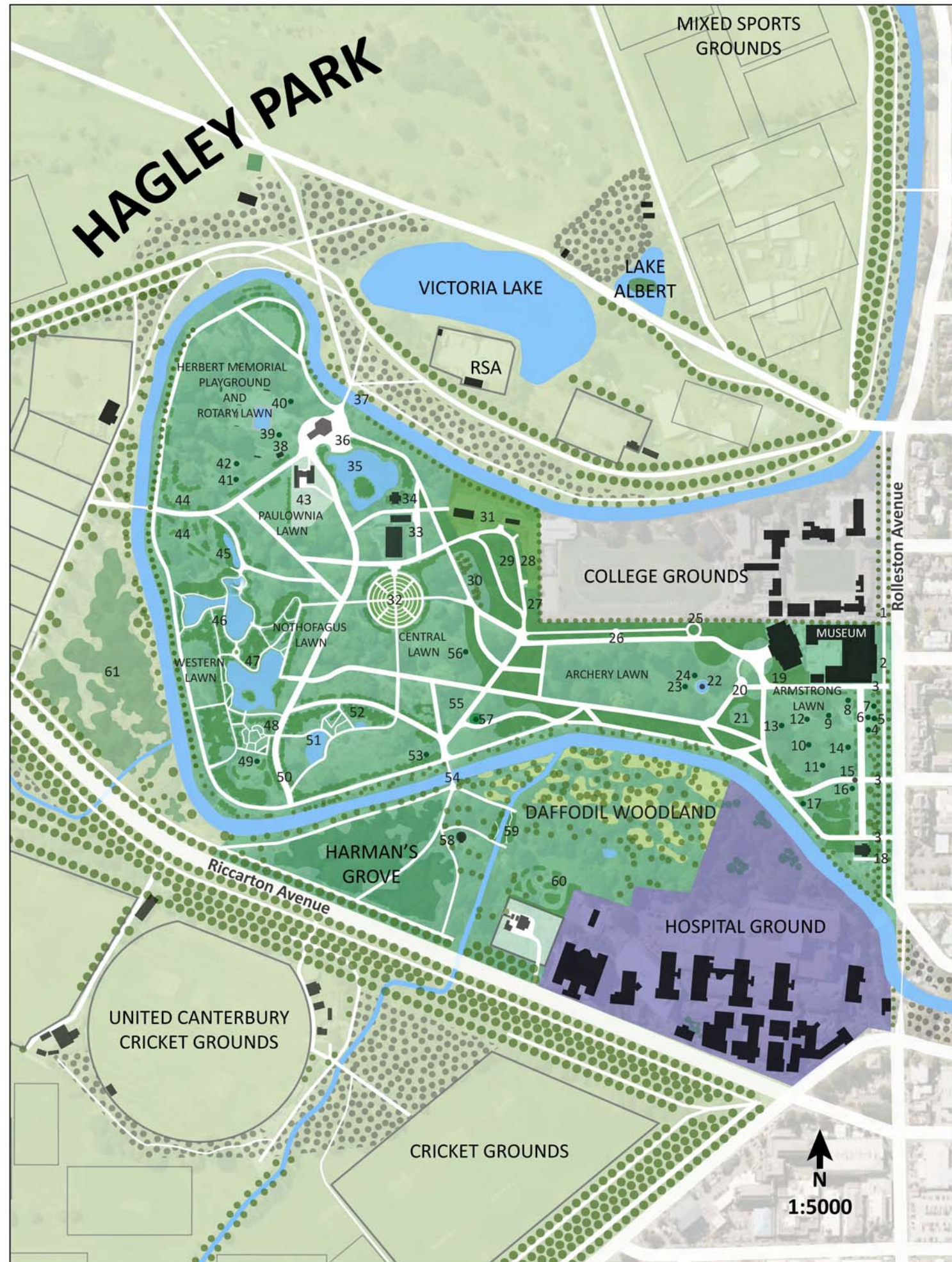


Figure 3.84. McDougall Art Gallery from Archery Lawn 1953
Source: CCC, online heritage week collection 1950s

BOTANIC GARDENS AND SURROUNDS c1955

Mid 20th Century Development

1. Forming new Alpine Rock Garden, June 1939. Source: Botanic Gardens historical photographic collection: Press collection, CBGPA
2. South walk looking towards Curator's house 1941. Source: Postcard, L Beaumont private collection
3. View looking east to the Museum and Gardens' entrance December 1950. Source: Whites Aviation Collection, WA-26080-F, ATL



Key

1. Double row of horse chestnuts
2. Rolleston Statue
3. Iron gated entrances - Museum approach treated as main entrance
4. Malus 'Lemoinei' planted by Lady Norrie within specimen trees in lawn
5. Acer platanoides 'Goldsworth Purple' planted by Queen Elizabeth II within specimen trees in lawn
6. Malus 'Oporto' planted by Sir Willoughby Norrie within specimen trees in lawn
7. Liquidamber styraciflua planted to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
- 8 Betula papyrifera planted by Sir Cyril Newall
9. Ginkgo biloba planted by Lord Galway
10. Quercus robur planted by the Duke of Edinburgh
11. Sequoiadendron giganteum planted by the Duke of Edinburgh
12. Cedrus libani planted by the Marchioness of Normanby
13. Fagus sylvatica var. atropunicea planted by Lord Jellicoe
14. Cedrus deodara planted to celebrate John Armstrong's birthday
- 15 Moorhouse Statue flanked either side by a series of regularly spaced rectangular border gardens
16. Araucaria araucana planted for Sir George Grey
17. Quercus robur commemorating the marriage of George V
18. Curator's house
- 19 Robert McDougall Art Gallery
20. Eveleyn Couzins Memorial Gateway
21. Pine Mound
22. Circular pool with single water jet
23. Fagus sylvatica planted by the Duke of York
24. Agathis australis planted by the Prince of Wales
25. Christ's College brick wall with Diocesan Library door. Wall fronted by shrub border and Japanese cherries
26. Rolleston Sundial and seat between two lengthy Herbaceous Border Gardens
27. Clematis Garden
28. Camellia Border
- 29 Peony Border
- 30 Australian Lawn
31. Nursery area with shade house, potting shed, seven glasshouses, frames etc
32. Rose garden with Stevenson Sundial, McDougall lead sculptures and eight seats
33. Show Houses - Cuninghame Winter Garden and first Townend Conservatory
34. Fern House
35. Kiosk Lakelet with planted island
36. Tea Kiosk
37. Kiosk Bridge (North Bridge)
- 38 H. F. Herbert Memorial Pavilion
39. Quercus coccinea planted by S.K. Gernsey
40. Cedrus deodara planted by Sydney Pascall as a Rotary 'Friendship Tree'
41. Metasequoia glyptostroboides planted by H.J. Brunner
- 42 Ulmus campestris 'Van Houttei' planted by A.Z. Baker
- 43 Magnetic Observatory grounds and Administration Office including workshop
44. Azalea Garden and Rhododendron Dell
45. Iris Pond
46. Bog Garden
47. New Zealand Section
48. Cockayne Memorial Garden
49. Phyllocladus glaucus planted by Professor Skottsberg
50. Beswick's Tilia edged walk
51. Lily Pond
52. Exotic Rock Garden including specialist erica collection and allied genera
53. Quercus borealis var. maxima planted to commemorate the Coronation of George V
54. Woodland Bridge (South Bridge)
55. Cherry Mound with Jamieson tazza ornamenting steps
56. Quercus robur planted to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII
57. Edward Albert oak
58. Bandsmen's Memorial Rotunda
59. Primula and Waterside Garden
60. Rose species Garden
61. Pinetum

Sources

Refer figure 3.88 Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens 1955 map

Figure 3.85 Map of the Botanic Gardens and surrounds 1955

3.9.2 Hagley Park

A growing emphasis on the need for physical fitness and mental relaxation saw increasing public demand for space and recreational facilities in Hagley Park. The Second World War had renewed fears about the poor physical state of the nation, and pre-war physical improvement programmes had been revived along with a number of new initiatives. These, coupled with a greater degree of leisure time (shorter working hours and the introduction of the two-day weekend), allowed for more opportunities for organised sport and casual recreation. In addition, steadily increasing numbers of central city flat dwellers added to the demand for more sporting facilities. As Barnett noted, this resulted in concern from a fairly substantial section of the public over potential conflicts between Hagley Park's active amenity role, its aesthetic values and a loss of the landscape's spaciousness.

In acknowledging the importance of maintaining a balance between the Park's "peaceful rural atmosphere" and the need to provide leisure opportunities for all sections of the community, Barnett directed the raising of rents for sports groups using North and South Hagley Park. Sheep grazing was limited and concentrated in specific parts of South Hagley Park, and all sheep were removed from the Park between April and September. Temporary paths and bridges that had been formed for various wartime purposes were erased and the public was induced to return to legitimate footpaths.

While it is difficult to determine the efficacy of these moves, by 1951 Hagley Park was supporting 28 football fields, 23 hockey fields, 41 basketball grounds, 19 cricket grounds, 16 baseball grounds, 4 bowling greens, 30 grass tennis courts, 5 hard tennis courts, 4 croquet greens, a 12 hole golf course⁵⁹⁵, 2 miles of horse ride, a lake for model yachting, a ground for model aeronautics (the former polo ground on the north-west corner of South Hagley Park) and a ground for marching team practice. The buildings associated with these sporting codes were dotted across both North and South Hagley Park and included pavilions, dressing sheds, caretakers' residences, scoreboards, toilets, and associated artesian wells. Most sports grounds were enclosed with either planted hedges or fences. The ground as a whole was still used for military parades, public gatherings such as school picnics and sporting days, as well as being a valuable study ground for training institutions, and the Avon River's popularity for a number of recreational activities continued unabated.⁵⁹⁶

The Canterbury centennial celebrations

As part of the Canterbury centennial celebrations, an area in the corner of North Hagley Park was set aside as a venue for an amusement park from November 1950 to the end of March 1951.⁵⁹⁷ The concept of an amusement park was said to revive the tradition of using this part of Hagley Park for public entertainment. In the past this had included the 1906-1907 Christchurch International Exhibition and regular visiting circus troops who camped by Albert Lake. Offering most of the popular amusements of the day, the park attractions included a diorama, steam train, aquarium, numerous rides and side shows as well as wax works.⁵⁹⁸

Other aspects of the centennial celebrations involved a programme of spirited floral, ribbon and maypole dancing in Hagley Park, "speechifying", a fireworks display in South Hagley Park, a floral

⁵⁹⁵ Hagley Park Golf course had reverted to a 12-hole course in 1947

⁵⁹⁶ Barnett, M. (1951) Hagley Park and Botanic Gardens, Christchurch, p. 6, CH377 Box 57, CCCA

⁵⁹⁷ Reserves - Hagley Park 1944 – 1962, CH 343, 134 file 8/3/35, ANZ

⁵⁹⁸ Canterbury Centennial Celebrations, CH335 Box 38/6, CCCA

pageant through the park illustrating the regions one hundred years of progress and a carnival on the Avon River.⁵⁹⁹



Figure 3.86. A float from the Canterbury centennial 'Pageant of Progress' procession, North Hagley Park, 16 December 1950 Source: PB1606 – 2, V.C. Browne & Son

New commemorative planting and fabric

Coupled with these entertainments was a desire to recognise the centenary in some more permanent form within the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park, particularly given the significant role these landscapes had played in the early history of the city. A suggestion by Colonel Worsnop of the Armed Services to plant narcissi bulbs around the boundaries of Hagley Park was adopted by the City Council in March 1950. Soon after, an appeal was made to the public for donations of bulbs, and assistance to underplant the perimeter belts in both North and South Hagley Park along the full length of Riccarton Avenue.⁶⁰⁰ Response to the request was enthusiastic and planting began later that year, and as at 2012, members of the Beautifying Association still continue this programme, planting thousands of daffodils in North Hagley Park.⁶⁰¹

Other plantings associated with the 1950 centenary included;

- 12 large oaks - planted by members of the New Zealand Founders Society near the Philpott Memorial in South Hagley Park
- 25 oaks - planted by the Women's Club and Women's Division of Federated Farmers in South

⁵⁹⁹ *Canterbury Centennial Floral Procession Programme; Canterbury Centennial Celebrations: fireworks display South Hagley Park Christchurch, Thursday 15th February 1951, Programme of events; Horticulture, February 1951, p. 11*

⁶⁰⁰ Bulbs for Hagley Park 1950, CH355 Box 38 Folder 10, CCCA

⁶⁰¹ Strongman, T. (1999) *City Beautiful: The first 100 years of the Christchurch Beautifying Association*, p. 67 opp cite; City Beautiful website, <http://www.christchurchbeautifyingassn.org.nz/index.php> Accessed September 2012

Hagley Park

- 8 oaks - planted by the President and members of the Gardening Circle and Home Economics Association in South Hagley Park
- avenue planting of Yoshino Cherries on Riccarton Avenue. These are thought by the City Council to have been a centenary planting and may have been a replacement for the earlier (ca. 1905) avenue planting

Six years after the centenary, and using the two earlier successful mass public daffodil planting projects as models, the Christchurch Soroptimist Club proposed a similar scheme for the planting of a Bluebell Dell in Little Hagley Park. This was approved just prior to Barnett's retirement. Bulbs were gathered via donations from members of the public with some gifted by the British Overseas Airways Corporation. The first plantings were made in March 1956 in the area known as 'the glade', between Carlton Mill Bridge and the small bridge giving access onto the Carlton Mill Road.⁶⁰² A plaque was placed in the glade in late 1956 (extant) and regular plantings were made over the following years to extend the drift.⁶⁰³ It is unclear when the Soroptimist Club's involvement with the Bluebell project ended but the practice was revived by Botanic Gardens' staff in 2011 when 22,000 bulbs were planted.⁶⁰⁴

Other commemorative fabric placed in Hagley Park at this time included another plaque and plinth combination. This was placed by members of the Methodist Church on the historic site of the first Methodist Sunday School in South Hagley Park, in April 1951.⁶⁰⁵ Two years later in June 1953, a black marble plaque set on a concrete plinth was placed on the north side of Christ's College fields in South Hagley Park, adjacent to Riccarton Avenue and opposite the entrance to the Botanic Gardens carpark. This plaque and its associated tree jointly commemorated the Canterbury centenary and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.



Figure 3.87. Bluebell plaque, Little Hagley Park Source: L. Beaumont, 2011

⁶⁰² 'Story of the Soroptimist Bluebells: Planting Started' *The Press*?, March 24, 1956, CBGA

⁶⁰³ Report of the Abattoir and Reserves Committee, 13 August 1956, CH380 C/99c, CCCA; <http://www.olderandbolder.co.nz/showthread.php?177-Soroptimists-A-Committed-Sorority>

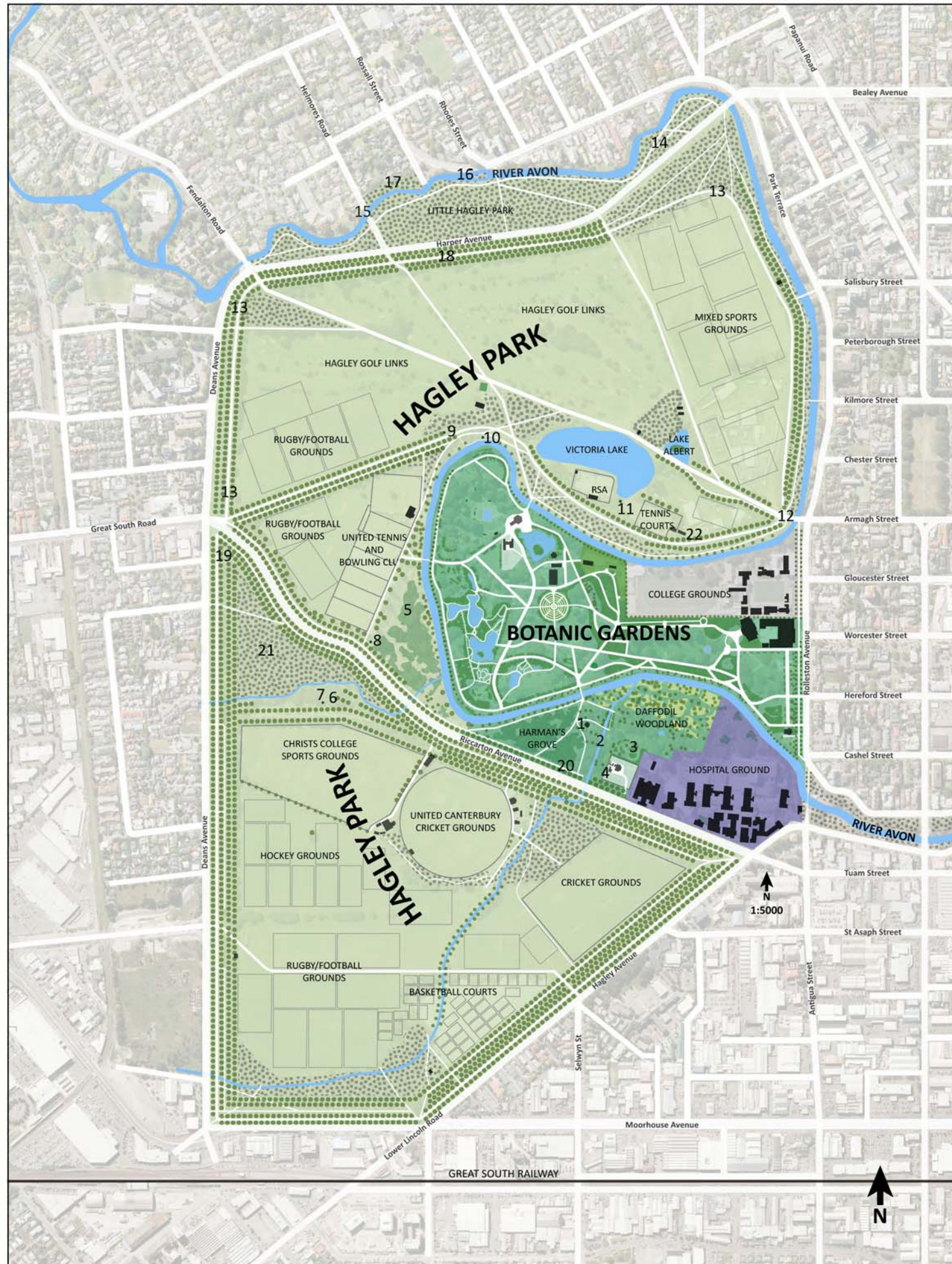
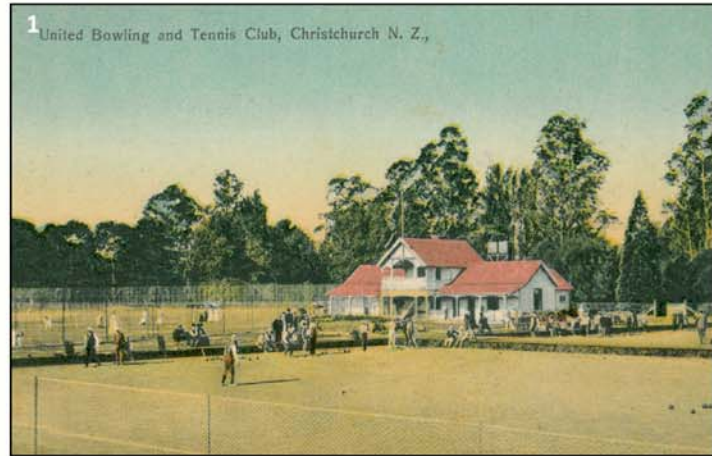
⁶⁰⁴ Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/S. Malloy, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, July 2012

⁶⁰⁵ *Shirley Methodist Church: One Hundred Years of Witness*; Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/Jo Smith, Methodist Archives, March 2011

HAGLEY PARK AND BOTANIC GARDENS, c1955

Mid 20th Century Development

1. United Bowling and Tennis Club, North Hagley c.1935.
source: Postcard. L. Beaumont, private collection
2. Basketball courts, South Hagley, 1940s, Source: Historical Photograph Collection, Photograph 60, CBGPA
3. Aerial view of Centennial parade and Amusement Park, North Hagley, December 1950. Source: 0210-0223, V.C.Browne Collection



Key

1. Bandsmen's memorial rotunda
2. Primula and Waterside Garden
3. Rose Species Garden
4. Caretaker's Cottage
5. Pinetum
6. Philpott standing stone with 1950 planting of 12 oaks
7. Methodist Church marker
8. Godley Memorial
9. Pilgrim's standing stone
10. Pilgrim's well
11. Electrographic House and sunshine recorder
12. College Bridge
13. Park ride
14. Bluebell Dell
15. Helmore's Bridge
16. Island planted with birch and rhododendrons
17. Millbrook Reserve planted with rhododendrons, camellia, roses and fern grove
18. Arbor Day planting of Yoshino Cherries
19. Nancy's Corner
20. c. 1910 Yoshino cherries and possibly additional or replacement plantings in the 1950s
21. 41 purple sycamore maples planted on Arbor Day 1936
22. Canterbury Rugby Union Footballer's Memorial Pavilion

Note: Density of tree planting is indicative only and should not be taken as a true record of tree spacing or numbers

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 Aerial Imagery courtesy of Google Maps

Figure 3.88
Map of Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens 1955

3.10 Huia Gray Gilpin - Director 1955-1979

Lawrence (Lawrie James Metcalf – Assistant Curator 1955 - 68 and Assistant Director 1968 -1977

3.10.1 Botanic Gardens

Under Huia Gilpin and Lawrie Metcalf, some earlier planned projects were completed and new projects were initiated. This included the construction of one replacement and three additional Show Houses, which were seen as important adjuncts to the scientific and educational role of the Botanic Gardens. Financed through donations and bequests, these were grouped together to the north of Cuningham House.

Townend House (extant)

The original Townend House was demolished in late 1955 after being declared unsafe the previous year.⁶⁰⁶ Its kauri timber and other salvageable materials were reused by Reserves Department carpenters in a number of unspecified projects. A replacement structure, also called Townend House, was constructed between 1955 and 1956 over the footprint of the original structure. The new Townend House is believed to have been designed by the architects Armson and Collins.⁶⁰⁷ Like its predecessor it was used for the display of flowering plants, including bold arrangements of the more spectacular house plants. Information displays and labelling in this house included the stories associated with the development of species and often featured plants in their wild form alongside popular cultigens to illustrate the process of selection and breeding.

Garrick House (extant)

This was constructed in 1957 immediately north of the original Townend House. It was named after Mr Montague Garrick, a Cashmere Hills resident and cacti enthusiast who donated his significant collection of over 1,100 cacti and succulents to the Botanic Gardens in the late 1950s. The Garrick plants, which were valued at £800 in 1946,⁶⁰⁸ were added to the Gardens own specialist holding, which had been built up between 1935 and 1937, to form an impressive collection.⁶⁰⁹ An additional 500 cacti and succulents from the collection of Peter McLay were added in 1978. A diorama painted by the Botanic Gardens' sign writer Gordon Gee, rocks from Purau, and a naturalistic display, provided the backdrop for the species on show and helped to situate plants in their respective natural environments.

Foweraker House (extant)

Foweraker House, a small (30 by 13 foot) Show House opened in 1967, and was originally known as the Alpine House. Initially showcasing alpine and rock garden plants, it included a wide range of native alpine plants. In 1980, it was renamed Foweraker House, in acknowledgment of the many alpine plants Margaret (Jean) Foweraker had donated to the Botanic Gardens.

Gilpin House (extant)

This 18 by 24 foot Show House was constructed in 1964 for the display of carnivorous plants. Its construction was prompted by an offer from the Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, of a

⁶⁰⁶ Chairman's Supplementary Report of the Abattoir and Reserves Committee, 8 February 1954. CH380 C/99, CCCA

⁶⁰⁷ Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Winter Garden, Architectural drawing 1949-1951, Plan ref: 34212, MBL

⁶⁰⁸ M. Barnett, 'Christchurch Gardens and Hagley Park', 7- page paper dated 18 November 1946, CH355 Box 9, CCCA

⁶⁰⁹ Annual Report by the Curator for the year ending 31 March 1937, CH355, Box 22/1, CCCA

collection of insectivorous plants to mark the Christchurch Botanic Gardens' centenary.⁶¹⁰ Although it was completed by the end of 1964 the house did not open to the public until at least 1967. This delay was necessary to allow sufficient time to build up a suitable collection of plants, both from overseas sources and species native to New Zealand.⁶¹¹ Originally known as Number 5 Display House, it was renamed Gilpin House, in honour of Huia Gilpin, in 1980.

The opening of these Show Houses built upon Barnett's notion of engaging the public in the scientific and botanic aspects of collections by overlaying displays with visually interesting features and information. This continued to be a focus through the 1960s, as voiced by Lawrie Metcalf, Assistant Director, who wrote in one of his regular contributions in the *Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Journal* "The main thing to be borne in mind with such displays is that John Citizen comes not only to stare, but providing the information is presented in a suitable manner, he is interested in learning something about the plants he sees. It is the duty of these Gardens to supply such information".⁶¹²

Other new buildings erected at this time included long awaited library, offices and facilities for staff in 1966, as well as soil sheds and plant frames in the Propagating Department. The glasshouses in the nursery were reconstructed ten years later in 1976. Under Gilpin, the Botanic Gardens' water reticulation system was also replaced and the Kiosk Lakelet was re-formed.⁶¹³



Figure 3.89. Construction works in the nursery area ca. 1957
Source: Flickr online image

⁶¹⁰ Assistant Curator's Report, 2 March - 29 March 1963, CH377 Box 53, File 19/18, CCCA

⁶¹¹ 'Notes for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens' *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol VII, June 1967, p.115

⁶¹² 'Notes for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens' *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol VII, June 1965, p. 129

⁶¹³ Duff, unpaginated

The Native Section of the Botanic Gardens, including the Cockayne Memorial Garden, was completely reconstructed, and the Alpine Garden enlarged, during 1960 and 1961. At the same time, the design and the character of the shrub beds within these gardens were altered, and the emphasis shifted from a largely botanical collection to something that was botanical by nature but also demonstrated the horticultural possibilities of certain groups of New Zealand plants.⁶¹⁴ This was an important improvement, particularly to Metcalf, who stressed the importance of displaying New Zealand species and collections with regard to their horticultural as well as their aesthetic value. For this reason, the Native Section included areas that simulated a piece of bush, a lake and various tree and shrub borders.⁶¹⁵

As part of this reconstruction the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) arranged for the inclusion of a collection of all available cultivars of leptospermum and hebe within the garden. Essentially for the benefit of the Nomenclature Committee of the RNZIH, these taxonomic displays were also considered to be a pleasing and interesting feature for the public.⁶¹⁶ Both collections were stocked through donations from members of the nursery trade, including 20 leptospermum cultivars from Victor Davies, (Duncan and Davies) and 18 English-raised hebe varieties from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.⁶¹⁷ The cultivar *Leptospermum scoparium* 'Nichollsii' (Red-flowering manuka) was an important part of this collection, and was later noted by Metcalf to be "*genetically and historically important and one of the few, if not the only place in New Zealand where material of this cultivar could be obtained.*"⁶¹⁸

By 1965 the hebe display in this garden numbered 85 cultivars⁶¹⁹ and included two hybrids which originated in the Botanic Gardens, *Hebe* 'Youngii' and *H. 'Hagleyensis'*, as well as *Hebe 'armstrongii'* that had been discovered by Joseph Armstrong (and W. Grey) in 1869. The other plant groups displayed included *Sophora*, *Carmichaelia*, *Leguminosae*, *Phormium*, ornamental grasses and sedges.

Other plant donations at this time included Peter McLay's considerable bonsai collection, gifted to the Botanic Gardens in the late 1970s.⁶²⁰ This was housed in the converted shade house behind the Gardens' administration buildings, referred to at that time as the Peter McLay House. The McLay bonsais formed the basis of one of the few public bonsai collections in the New Zealand. Sadly, by 2005, it was noted that "*his gift of hundreds of bonsai (the exact number was never recorded) has now shrunk through attrition and also by theft.*"⁶²¹

Another important donation was received in 1976 when an unsolicited gift of 100 *Lilum speciosum*

⁶¹⁴ Metcalf in *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol V, September 1964, No. VIII, pp. 367-368

⁶¹⁵ Ibid

⁶¹⁶ *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH* Vol IV, September 1962, No. VIII, pp. 374 – 375; Assistant Curator's Report 30 June 1961- 2 September 1961, CH377 Box 53, File 19/18, CCCA

⁶¹⁷ Ibid

⁶¹⁸ L. J. Metcalf to N. Drain, comment in respect of proposed Management Plan for the Botanic Gardens, 6 March 1989, CCCA; The gene pool of this species no longer survives in the Gardens. Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/Sue Molloy, February 2013

⁶¹⁹ List of hebes growing in the Christchurch Botanic Garden appended to correspondence from Director to B. Byrne, 3 May 1965, CH335/51, CCCA; *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol IV, September 1962, p. 375

⁶²⁰ This was a significant gift from McLay as the collection was of great personal value. This is illustrated by the fact that both his and his wife's ashes were scattered, at their request, in the bonsai house among their plants.

For a profile of the McLay's bonsai collection see 'Bonsai led him to a full life', *New Zealand Gardener*, Vol. 27, Number 8, August 1970, pp. 5-7

⁶²¹ 'Gardening with Cynthia Keeper', *The Star*, 18 June 2005, online archive

var. *rubrum* 'Uchida' bulbs were sent from the Director of the Ofuna Botanical Gardens, Japan. These were a particularly important bulb for the Ofuna Botanical Gardens, and one that they hoped to see growing in many countries around the world.⁶²²

The gradual conversion of the rose species garden in the Murray-Aynsley Lawn to a collection of heritage roses began in 1976, and a small trial ground for annuals was developed near the Observatory.⁶²³ These annuals were initially furnished by the Nursery Association and the original purpose of the ground was to trial annuals that were unregistered and not yet available for the public to purchase.

Other changes included a redesign of the 1954 Clematis Garden fronting the Christ's College brick wall. Additional pathways and a 48 foot long pergola (pillars extant) were constructed to improve the public's view of the clematis collection.⁶²⁴ The Heath Garden was also extended out onto the Harper Lawn enabling the addition of hardy erica hybrids and cultivars and South African species.

The Herbaceous Border Garden running the full length of the Archery Lawn was, by this stage, planted with an emphasis on high colour display. As documented in *A Garden Century* the colour display moved from a predominantly yellow, blue and pink arrangement in spring to a scheme that became more vibrant and intense in summer.



Figure 3.90. Herbaceous border ca. 1964
Source: *A Garden Century*

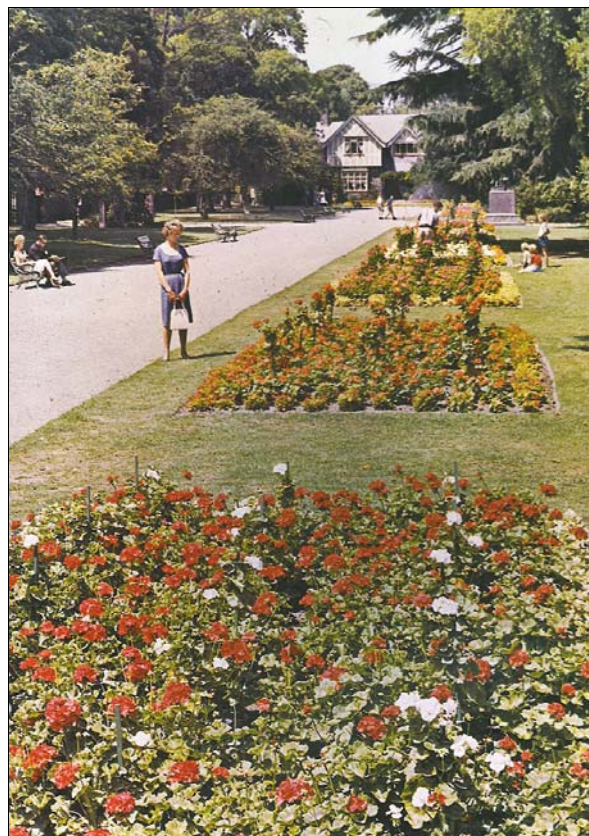


Figure 3.91. Armstrong Lawn with zonal pelargonium beds
Source: *A Garden Century*

⁶²² CH377 Box 30, File 17/11, CCCA

⁶²³ *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol IV, December 1966; Biography of Lawrence James Metcalf in the *Annual Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture*, 1989, Vol. 16: 43-4; Duff, unpaginated

⁶²⁴ *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol VII, No III, June 1967

The Botanic Gardens' Centenary

One of the most significant changes to the appearance of the Botanic Gardens was effected in 1963 with the completion of a stone and wrought iron fence on the Rolleston Avenue boundary.

Replacing the ageing holly hedge, this new Halswell stone fence was erected to mark the centenary of the Botanic Gardens and was funded through the generosity of Councillor W. S. MacGibbon.⁶²⁵

(Refer Volume 3:1.8.2)

The centenary was also marked with the publication of *A Garden Century*.⁶²⁶ In association with the production of this book and the impending centenary, it was decided that the location names commonly used by staff should be formalised. In addition a cluster of historically linked location names should be conferred on the few existing places within the Gardens that were un-named. In doing so, the names of the members of the first [post Provincial Council] Domains Board and their significant association with the Gardens would be recognised and perpetuated in the Harper, Stafford, Murray-Aynsley, Potts and Hall Lawns. One exception to this was the front lawn.⁶²⁷ This was named the Armstrong Lawn in memory of John Armstrong, who was described by Metcalfe as "*the father of the Gardens*."⁶²⁸

The centenary was also marked by Queen Elizabeth who planted an oak, south east of the Stafford Lawn. In addition, a clump of 24 stone pines (*Pinus picea*) was planted in North Hagley Park, adjacent to the MacGibbon Gates, by incumbent and past Directors, Assistant Directors and the Chairman of Reserves.

In 1964, as part of the Rolleston Avenue redevelopment, Enoch Barker's tree-lined promenade was felled in the face of much spirited public protest.⁶²⁹ The removal of these 64 trees was deemed necessary because of the age of the trees, the propensity of the elms to unexpectedly drop limbs, and disease in some of the other species. Heated protests were levelled at Huia Gilpin's proposed replanting scheme of a predominantly *Ginkgo biloba* avenue which, because of the species' Chinese origin, was considered "*inappropriate in the most English part of the city*."⁶³⁰ Public meetings were organised, protesters picketed the City Council offices, and numerous letters were penned to the press expressing concern over what was perceived to be a character-altering planting proposal for the heart of Christchurch.⁶³¹

Although a few individuals were noted to have argued for kowhai, the overwhelming majority of concerned residents expressed a consistent desire to see "*English trees*" or trees common to the English countryside planted on Rolleston Avenue.⁶³² After much debate and public acrimony, the avenue was replanted in 1965 as a mixed species boulevard, to a planting design prepared by the Council Landscape Architect, Edgar Taylor.⁶³³ (Refer appendix 8 for species list.)

⁶²⁵ Duff, unpaginated report; Photograph of the unveiling in *The Press*, 25 February 1963

⁶²⁶ The history of the Botanic Gardens between 1863 and 1963 edited by Michael Barnett, Huia Gilpin and Lawrie Metcalfe published in 1963

⁶²⁷ This was referred to as the Moorhouse Lawn in a 1927 plan of the Botanic Gardens (held in CBGPA)

⁶²⁸ Assistant Curator's Report, 30 September 1961 -25 October 1961, p. 2, CH377 Box 53, File 19/18, CCCA

⁶²⁹ Rolleston Avenue Trees, CH377 Box 53 file 22/24a, CCCA

⁶³⁰ Letters to the Editor, various July – August 1964, Rolleston Avenue Trees, CH377 Box 53 file 22/24a, CCCA

⁶³¹ Newspaper clippings in respect of Rolleston Avenue Trees, Rolleston Avenue Trees, CH377 Box 53 file 22/24a, CCCA

⁶³² Ibid



Figure 3.92. Removal of Barker's avenue in 1964. This was described at the time by one city councillor as the most drastic step in the history of the garden city. The newly installed centennial fence is visible on the left of the photograph.

Source: Historical photograph collection, Photograph 33, CBGPA

Canterbury Museum and Robert McDougall Art Gallery extensions

Other proposed changes within the Botanic Gardens sparked further public debate in the 1970s. The first of these, in 1971, involved a proposal to extend the rear of the Canterbury Museum in a westerly direction, over-sailing the boundary of the Gallery. This addition was eventually constructed between 1973 and 1977 and was subsequently named the Roger Duff Memorial wing.

During the construction of this wing, plans to enlarge the Robert McDougall Art Gallery were announced. This was considered necessary because of the Gallery's inability to competently display touring exhibitions, and also to improve the public's access to Gallery.⁶³⁴ Two alternatives were considered with the Gallery administrator's preferred option being a scheme which extended the building's footprint across the path running parallel to the Museum.⁶³⁵ This proposal was treated with alarm by numerous members of the public as well as Christchurch's horticultural, landscape and heritage communities, who mounted a public campaign to stop the extension.

In a sequel to the debates that had raged fifty years earlier, letters to *The Press* and City Council Reserves Department, and various reports argued against the proposal, citing the primacy of the landscape over buildings. It was argued that the role of the Botanic Gardens was to grow and display plants for the benefit of the public and any building in the Gardens that did not directly serve the functions of that institution should be subordinate to it, and not the dominant feature. In the face of

⁶³³ 'Rolleston Avenue 1964/65', Plans of Edgar Taylor: [a list of] plans held by the Design Services Unit and Parks Unit, CCC compiled in 1992 (physical plans no longer held by Council)

⁶³⁴ Christchurch Art Gallery Item 2, Box: 1, Folder: 1a 1967-69, CAGA

⁶³⁵ New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Registration File: Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Registration No: 303

such strident opposition the proposal was abandoned and alternative storage options were explored. This resulted in a significant underground excavation of the Gallery in 1981, and the construction of the Canaday Wing between the Gallery and Christ's College in 1982.

Amidst the public outcry over the Art Gallery's attempt to abstract further land from the Botanic Gardens, the Gallery was said to have broken new ground by curating the first exhibit of sculptural works in the Botanic Gardens.⁶³⁶ Echoing the public debate at that time, Matt Pine's works were placed both within the Gallery, on the Pine Mound and around the Armstrong and Archery Lawns.⁶³⁷

Donations and gifts

Important donations to the Botanic Gardens during this period included a pair of large bronze cranes that were placed in the Cuningham House in the 1960s. The cranes were originally purchased by Lady Jessie Rhodes (wife of Sir Heaton Rhodes) in Japan and were later gifted by the Rhodes' niece to the Gardens for display in Cuningham House.⁶³⁸ (Refer Volume 3: 1.11.8 for further details.)

New commemorative plantings included a *Dacrydium cupressinum* (Rimu) (extant) marking the visit of Governor General Sir Bernard Fergusson in 1964, and a *Magnolia grandiflora* (extant but relocated) planted by Governor General Sir Arthur Porritt, in 1972. To mark the retirement of Huia Gilpin, three trees (*Ginkgo biloba*, *Quercus sp.* and *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Aureomarginatum') were planted by Gilpin and his wife in 1979. The *Liriodendron* is extant.

Prior to this some 55 trees, including some of the Botanic Gardens' more notable specimens, had been lost as a consequence of Cyclone Giselle. Still described as the worst storm in New Zealand's history, this 1968 cyclone uprooted a *Podocarpus andinus*, *Libocedrus plumosa*, *Pinus torreyana*, *P. patula*, *P. ayacahuite*, *P. lambertiana*, *Quercus heterophylla*, *Q. palustris*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana*, *Populus grandidentata*, *P. candensis* 'Aurea'. Following the storm, and wherever it was possible to do so, new plants were propagated from these trees in an effort to retain the species and their genetic material in the Gardens.

In 1970, the Magnetic Observatory grounds were handed back to the Christchurch City Council in line with the original 1901 agreement and all buildings, with the exception of the workshop and two wings of the original office, were removed. Staff from the DSIR were relocated and the workshop became a base for the Gardens' two rangers. At this time the DSIR expressed a desire to preserve and recognise four historic site markers associated with the history of the Magnetic Survey. These were:

- the international gravity point marked by a cross on the workshop floor (extant)⁶³⁹
- a benchmark in the cellar beneath the Observation Office⁶⁴⁰
- a subsidiary benchmark in the Observatory Lawn
- a mark by the old rear gateway that was used by Capt. Robert F. Scott Discovery Expedition

⁶³⁶ *Bulletin of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery*, No. 5, September/October 1979, p. 3

⁶³⁷ Manawatu-based sculptor, painter and multimedia artist

⁶³⁸ Molloy, S. 'Bronze crane reference file', CBGA

⁶³⁹ The international gravity point was described by the DSIR as the "fundamental reference point for all gravity measurements and for all gravity anomaly maps in New Zealand". W. I. Reilly, Geophysics Division, DSIR 29 June 1970, AANS 7613 W5491 Box 568, Res 11/2/34, ANZ

⁶⁴⁰ Former staff report that this benchmark was in the Observatory Office beneath the director's desk. Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/S. Molloy, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, September 2011

officers for their magnetic observations⁶⁴¹

In 1977 the base station was renovated for use as a classroom. This was in association with an educational programme that Metcalf had established one year earlier in tandem with the Canterbury Education Board and Christchurch secondary schools. Lectures formed part of the educational programme together with demonstrations and conducted tours, and by May 1977, Metcalf reported that in the preceding month eleven classes of over 300 children had been given instruction.⁶⁴² It is unclear how long this programme continued.



Figure 3.93. 1962 Aerial view of the Botanic Gardens and part of North Hagley Park showing the extent of the Magnetic Observatory Grounds, the new Townend and Garrick show houses and the Nursery and Administration area.
Source: Whites Aviation, WA-61184-F, ATL

⁶⁴¹ According to Lawrie Metcalf (Assistant Curator 1955-1968, Assistant Director 1968-1977) there was never a mark for Scott in his time. However, he believes it to have been by an old gateway associated with a small driveway for Observatory staff that ran from the path by the Kiosk Lakelet and along the north side of the Climatological Station to the workshop. Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/S. Molloy, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, September 2011

⁶⁴² Curator's Reports for months of June 1976 and May 1977, CH377 Box 30, CCCA

3.10.2 Hagley Park

Various centenaries, bequests and gifts in the late 1950s and 1960s added another layer of commemorative park hardware and plant fabric across Hagley Park. The most significant of these were three sets of gates. The first, the Dynes Memorial Gates (extant), were erected at the western entrance to North Hagley Park, adjacent to the Riccarton Avenue and Deans Avenue roundabout, in May 1958. These were funded by Martha Gray in memory of her father, William John Dynes, and were constructed from Charteris Bay stone.⁶⁴³

The MacGibbon Gates (extant) were placed at the entrance of North Hagley Park off Riccarton Avenue by the Pinetum and were gifted by William MacGibbon, in 1961, to mark his 50 years of residence in Christchurch.⁶⁴⁴ These were formally opened by the Mayor in September 1961 and the ceremony was associated with the planting of a golden cedar in the Pinetum by Mr MacGibbon.⁶⁴⁵ Around the same time, the Mickle Gates (extant) were erected at the Armagh Street entrance to Hagley Park, beyond the Armagh Bridge.⁶⁴⁶ These gates were funded by a bequest from the Mickle estate following the death of Abigail Mickle and were dedicated as a memorial to Dr Adam Mickle. Although funds for these gates were made available to the Domains Board in 1936 the gates were not constructed and erected until the early 1960s.⁶⁴⁷ (Refer Volume 2: 1.8.4 for further details.)

In South Hagley Park, the Rolleston Avenue entrance gates into Christ's College were relocated to the entrance to the College's cricket ground where they remain today.⁶⁴⁸ A new groundsman's house was built in 1967, and three years later a new pavilion was constructed on the footprint of the school's earlier pavilion, and an implement shed was erected.⁶⁴⁹

Centennial occasions were marked in various parts of Hagley Park through the 1960s, including the placement of a plaque and plinth and a *Fagus sylvatica* in Little Hagley Park to mark the anniversary of Girl Guiding in the province in 1963. One year earlier Governor General Viscount Cobham had planted an oak in North Hagley Park, inside the Mickle Gates. The location of this was considered particularly appropriate as Hagley Park was named after Hagley Hall, which was at that time the official residence of Viscount Cobham. At the time of planting it was noted that the Viscount had promised to send acorns from the oaks growing in the grounds of Hagley Hall back to the Director of Parks and Reserves. These were to be planted in close proximity to the Governor General's tree.⁶⁵⁰

Three years later, one of the more unusual commemorative events was marked with the planting of three "celebration trees" in a triangular plot bordering Lake Albert, North Hagley Park. The trees, all *Sequoia sempervirens*, were planted in 1965 by the Mayor, the Chairman of Reserves and the Director of Reserves as part of the World Association for Celebrating the Year 2000 (W.A.C.Y. 2000). This was an international planting scheme initiated by Englishman John Goodman, who proposed to "use trees to make a simple gesture of confidence in the future... to celebrate looking ahead to the

⁶⁴³ Letter 29 November 1957 from the Parks and Reserves Department to the Town Clerk; Specifications and Tender, 28 November 1947, CH344, Box 16, CCCA

⁶⁴⁴ Mr (then Councillor) MacGibbon also funded the construction of the Halswell Stone fence on Rolleston Avenue in 1963

⁶⁴⁵ Report of the Abattoir and Reserves Committee, 18 October 1961, CH380 C/99a

⁶⁴⁶ Assistant Curator's Report, July 2 – July 29 1961, CH377 Box 53, File 19/18, CCCA

⁶⁴⁷ The Mickle Bequest document with Domains Board Minutes, Sept 1936, CBGA; *The Press*, 13 September 1936

⁶⁴⁸ Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/J. Teal, Christ's College Archivist, June 2011

⁶⁴⁹ Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/J. Teal, Christ's College Archivist, August 2011

⁶⁵⁰ Donations, Bequests and Memorials, CH377, Box 4, CCCA

year 2000.”⁶⁵¹

This was followed in 1967 by a ceremony organised by the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society to mark the “brown trout centenary.” The event included the placement of a commemorative plaque in the former location of the Acclimatisation Society trout ponds, to mark the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the first brown trout ova into New Zealand. The plaque was located behind an artesian well (which was subsequently capped with a fountain) to the north of the Primula Gardens.

The Hagley motorway and the Harper Avenue deviation

During this period, and concurrent with the public outcry over the Rolleston Avenue tree-felling, a scheme to breach North Hagley Park with a motorway was in train. This second serious attempt to link the city with north-western suburbs via an arterial road played out between 1962 and 1971, as part of the 1962 Christchurch Master Transport Plan. This document proposed to bisect the upper portion of North Hagley Park for an Avonside-Fendalton motorway between Salisbury Street and Fendalton Roads. Editorial comment popularised the debate, petitions were widely circulated, and formal objections against the scheme were lodged. Two pressure groups, the City Planning Strategy Group and the Reserves Committee,⁶⁵² were formed “to resist any despoliation of the Park.”

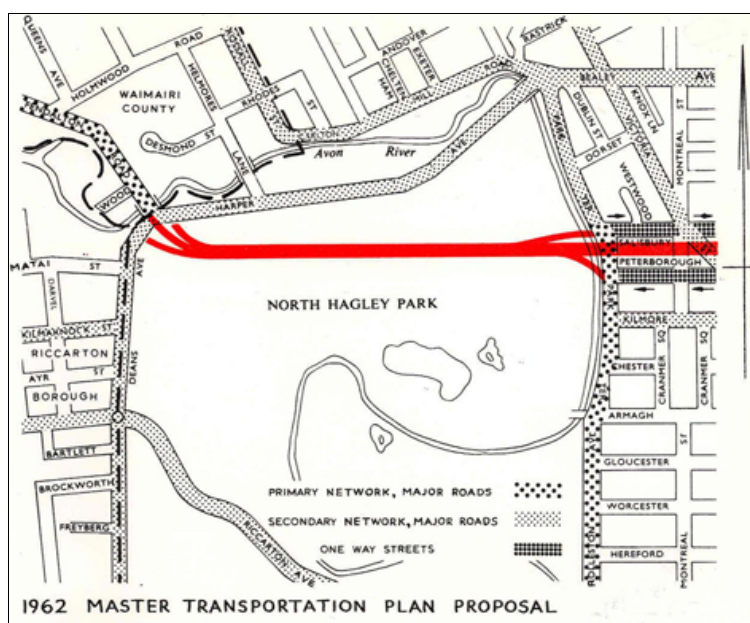


Figure 3.94. The 1962 Original Master Transport Plan proposal for the Addington-Fendalton section of the motorway which was planned to bisect North Hagley Park. Source: CH134, File 8/3/35, ANZ

Over the ensuing years several versions of the proposal were debated and, after a series of compromises and amendments, a final plan was determined in 1964. This involved the loss of ten acres of North Hagley Park, and the creation of a park-level motorway from Salisbury Street to Harper Avenue. The proposed motorway rose at the eastern end of North Hagley Park and crossed the Avon River and Park Terrace by a viaduct.⁶⁵³ Despite fierce public opposition as evidenced by the lodgement of 7,827 formal objections, and a declaration by the Reserves Committee that adamantly stated “we are determined to resist the encroachment, for any purpose, by any body of people, on

⁶⁵¹ Letters between the Director of Reserves and John Goodman, Rolleston Avenue Trees, CH377 Box 53, file 22/24a, CCCA

⁶⁵² An internal Council group made up of councillors from both the Labour and other Citizens bodies

⁶⁵³ Reserves, Hagley Park 1932-1970, CH134, File 8/3/35, ANZ; Sharrocks, A. (1980) *Hagley Park: conflict, decision-making and changing perceptions in public open space*, pp. 100-109

*this the main breathing space in the whole city*⁶⁵⁴ Harper Avenue was widened in preparation for the motorway. Two years later, in early March 1970, the grass was skimmed from North Hagley Park in preparation for the Harper Avenue deviation.⁶⁵⁵

However, excavation was halted on March 11th when it was discovered that ministerial consent was required for roading in a public reserve. The requisite bill to empower the City Council to lay out, construct and dedicate public streets over public reserves was drafted in September 1970 and passed the following year. But before work could recommence, the 1971 local body elections intervened and a new Labour council, which had campaigned on a “no Hagley Motorway” platform, was elected into power.

Other changes across the Park

As previously noted, Cyclone Giselle was responsible for the loss of a number of trees in 1968. Although the damage wrought was less severe in Hagley Park than that sustained in the Botanic Gardens, 35 trees were uprooted across the Park. Other losses of heritage fabric followed when the United Tennis, Bowling and Croquet Club's clubhouse was burnt to the ground in June 1979. The subject of one of two suspected arson events that year (the Botanic Gardens' Tea Kiosk being the other), the clubhouse had been a presence in North Hagley Park for 74 years.

New 18 foot x 12 foot rugby union shelters were added in both North and South Hagley Parks in 1954 and 1957,⁶⁵⁶ and an upgraded Model Yacht Club clubhouse was constructed near the Cosmic Ray House in 1968.⁶⁵⁷ At this time, a large two-storied sports centre, which opened in late 1968/early 1969, was also constructed close to Riccarton Avenue. (This is now occupied by the Canterbury Horticultural Society.)

The area given over to the Pinetum in North Hagley Park was extended in 1961 with the addition of an area which had historically served as a rubbish dump. At this time the Pinetum was noted to include several species of *Picea*, *Abies*, *Pinus*, as well as *Pseudolarix amabilis* (golden larch), *Juniperus communis* (common juniper), *J. rigida* (temple juniper), *J. virginiana* (eastern red cedar), *Picea omorika* (Serbian spruce) and a number of soft cone pines, primarily *Pinus wallichiana* (Bhuran pine). Other soft cone pines included *Pinus ayacahuite* (Mexican white pine), *P. strobus* (eastern white pine), *P. peuce* (Macedonian Pine) and *P. attenuata* (knobcone pine).⁶⁵⁸

Little Hagley Park

The publishing of W. A. Taylor's book, *Lore and History of the South Island Maori*, in 1952 caused the issue of the so-called Māori reserve to resurface. This led to a Lands and Survey Department investigation that concluded there was no record of any part of Hagley Park being legally reserved or gazetted for Māori.⁶⁵⁹ However, Ngāi Tahu were not convinced and, in the 1970s, sought to legitimise a Māori reserve in Little Hagley Park.

⁶⁵⁴ *The Star*, 21 July 1964

⁶⁵⁵ Photograph, *The Star*, 11 March 1970

⁶⁵⁶ 1954 - North Park near Deans Avenue and a few chains north of the Riccarton corner; South Park near Deans Avenue opposite the Sale yards (these included adjoining ambulance rooms). In 1957 additional structures were added, one in North Hagley near No. 3 Rugby ground and another in South Hagley near No. 23 Rugby ground

⁶⁵⁷ Letters, 9 August 1968 & 4 February 1969, CH344 Box 16, CCCA

⁶⁵⁸ *New Zealand Plants and Gardens, JRNZIH*, Vol V, No. 1, September 1962

⁶⁵⁹ <http://www.archives.govt.nz/exhibitions/currentexhibitions/chch/hp-maori.php>

In 1974 the Ōtautahi (Christchurch) Māori Committee wrote to the Minister of Māori Affairs, the Hon. Matiu Rata, requesting an application to the Māori Land Court (under section 439A of the Māori Affairs Act 1953) to inquire into the proposal that Little Hagley Park be made a Māori reservation, as provided by the Provincial Government in 1857 and promised in Kemp's Deed. However, this request was declined.

Three years later the Committee again wrote to the Minister of Māori Affairs, now the Hon. Duncan MacIntyre. The submission referred once more to the deed map in Taylor's book and noted that Taylor's brother-in-law, Mr A. Wylie, had helped photograph it in June 1935 at the Lands and Survey Office in Christchurch. Further, Ōtautahi (Christchurch) Māori Committee chairman and Ngāi Tūāhuriri elder, Rongo Nihohiho, was reported as saying he was aware that the Mormon Church in Utah held a microfilm copy of the map of the Hagley Park Māori Reserve, that showed it located between Carlton Mill Bridge and the site of the Mormon Temple on Fendalton Road.⁶⁶⁰ The existence of such a map has never been verified, however. Again, the Minister rejected the application and stated:

*On the official information available to me, I do not consider that there is a basis for an application of the kind suggested. The preponderance of evidence suggests that the arrangement of 1862 was for the use of the Maori people of the Little Hagley area for tying up their horses instead of at the Market Place. There is no evidence whatsoever that a grant of the land was contemplated or that any grant was made.*⁶⁶¹

While Ngāi Tahu's quest to have a Māori reserve in Little Hagley Park was never realised, the desire for a site as a meeting place within the city was in part fulfilled through the establishment of the national marae, Ngā Hau e Whā. However, as a marae gazetted "for the common use and benefit of the people of New Zealand", it is not a Ngāi Tahu marae or even a pan-Māori one. It is interesting that, in considering various sites for this marae, the Christchurch City Council in 1977 again considered a "prestige site" within Hagley Park (at "Nancy's Corner" at the intersection of Deans and Riccarton Avenues) for what it described as "a Ngāi Tahu marae."⁶⁶² The General Manager and Town Clerk, J. H. Gray, argued that it would be regarded as an act of "statesmanship" if the City Council were to make a prime site such as Hagley Park available for a marae rather than the suburban sites that were being considered. However, this proposal was rejected by the City Council, in favour of the site at Aranui.

During the time that Ngāi Tahu were seeking to legitimise the Hagley Park Māori Reserve, a Native American Indian totem pole was erected in Little Hagley Park, in a prominent position alongside Harper Avenue. A gift from the Oregon Centennial Commission and the Portland Zoological Society, the totem pole was carved by Chief Lelooska and given to the city of Christchurch in appreciation of the hospitality shown to American Antarctic programme personnel. Highly visible, the totem pole was soon deemed a distraction to motorists who had to contend with photographers stopping to take pictures of it. It was also a target for vandals who attempted to set fire to it in 1968 and again in 1970. Eventually, in 1980, it was relocated to what was considered a more appropriate location near the Antarctic Centre at the Christchurch International Airport.⁶⁶³

⁶⁶⁰ *The Press*, 14 July 1977

⁶⁶¹ Christchurch City Council Memorandum from General Manager and Town Clerk to The Mayor, *Proposed Maori Marae*, 8 August 1977, p. 4, MKT research files

⁶⁶² *Ibid* p. 5, MKT research files