

3.11 Alan Jolliffe - Curator 1978 - 1982

3.11.1 Botanic Gardens

As Duff (1981) has noted, during his four years as Curator Alan Jolliffe's emphasis was on the improvement of plant collections and plant borders within the Botanic Gardens.⁶⁶⁵ A conifer collection of dwarf and slow-growing species was established near the Curator's House, and the Heritage Rose Garden was further developed with additional roses donated by members of the public.⁶⁶⁶ Many of these were commemorative gifts to honour family members or particular events.⁶⁶⁷ By 1981, this garden was described by the New Zealand President of Heritage Roses as having the best heritage rose collection held in any public garden in the country.⁶⁶⁸

Other commemorative gestures during this period included the planting of a eucalyptus in the Australian Lawn by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide in 1982, and a monetary donation the following year for the construction of a semi-circular Halswell stone seat on the riverbank in Harman's Grove (extant). Additional fixed-feature elements added during Jolliffe's time included fourteen permanent stone base seats between 1979 and 1980, a stone bridge (extant) that replaced an ageing wooden structure and three drinking fountains. Each fountain was constructed of different materials; a Charteris Bay stone fountain which was located within the Eveleyn Couzins Memorial, a Halswell stone fountain placed in the rock gardens area and, in the former Acclimatisation Society Grounds, an artesian well was capped by Botanic Gardens staff and a river-boulder fountain built over it.⁶⁶⁹

Gifts of new plant material were regularly received through donations and plant exchanges with other institutions, but perhaps the most significant of these was from Mr Ronald Arnold of Springston, who donated an important collection of orchids, tropical plants, cacti and succulents in October 1981. This was described as containing many plants unobtainable through the usual channels, as well as a number of rare species.⁶⁷⁰

The Gardens' first guest touring vehicle, known as the "toast rack", introduced in the early 1970s, was improved eight years later with the addition of a specially commissioned electrically-powered tractor with sound system. Following this purchase, the enterprise expanded from a purely weekend schedule to a daily operation, offering tours complete with botanical and historical commentary on predetermined routes through the Botanic Gardens.⁶⁷¹ Other new initiatives included the employment of an Education Officer, whose role was to take small groups of school children and visitors around the Gardens.⁶⁷² Short (one-day per week) horticultural work experience programmes were also run for school- aged pupils, but it is unclear whether this was a continuation of Metcalf's education programme or a new initiative.

⁶⁶⁴ Christchurch City Council handbook of 1998; Plan of North Hagley Park showing position of sports grounds, HP44, CBGA; *Nor' West News*, 13 May 2009 on HPT file 22007-001, HPT

⁶⁶⁵ Duff, G. (1981) unpaginated

⁶⁶⁶ Curator's Report for June 1981, CH377 Box 30, CCCA

⁶⁶⁷ *Ibid*

⁶⁶⁸ *Ibid*

⁶⁶⁹ *The Press*, Sept 1980, CMDRC clippings book; Curator's Reports for January 1980 & August 1980, CH377 Box 30, CCCA

⁶⁷⁰ Curator's Report for October 1981, CH377, Box 30, CCCA

⁶⁷¹ Curator's Report for September 1978, CH377, Box 30, CCCA

⁶⁷² Following Council restructuring in 1998 the position was broadened to include educational functions on a city-wide basis

Also under Jolliffe's curatorship, efforts were made to collate and document the history of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park and two students were employed to this end. The report by Glenis-Jill Duff titled *Looking Back in Time: The History of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park* was the result of this project.⁶⁷³



Figure 3.95. Watergarden's Bridge constructed in 1979
Source: L. Beaumont, 2011

3.11.2 Hagley Park

During Jolliffe's term walking and running tracks were re-laid in Hagley Park, and the old Deans Avenue drain was converted to an open swale-type drain using Project Employment labour. Surplus soil generated during these conversion works was relocated to various parts of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.⁶⁷⁴

At Carlton Corner, a group of twelve *Pinus pinea* (Stone pines) was planted in the hope that it would become a feature like the North Hagley Park group, and tree lucerne was planted in close proximity to the Pilgrim's Well to provide a food source for native pigeons. Adjacent to the well on the western banks of the Avon River, a mass planting of rhododendron, azalea, camellia, kowhai, pampas, magnolia and willow was undertaken.⁶⁷⁵ Much of this planting is extant.

By 1980 it was noted that thirteen clubs had buildings of some description in Hagley Park, and the total number of buildings across the Park exceeded twenty.⁶⁷⁶

⁶⁷³ Pers. comm. S. Molloy/A. Jolliffe, September 2011

⁶⁷⁴ There is no record of any archaeological finds during these drainage works

⁶⁷⁵ Curator's Report for May 1980, CH377, Box 30, CCCA

3.12 Warwick Scadden - Curator 1982 – 1990s and Horticultural Operations Team Leader to 2003 Kevin Garnet – Operations Team Leader from 1982

3.12.1 Botanic Garden

Long awaited improvements to the area around the Tea Kiosk were finally approved in 1985 and in 1987 an Information Centre (extant) was constructed in the Botanic Gardens, emulating contemporary overseas practice. Prior to the erection of the Centre, Neiel Drain, the Director of Parks and Recreation at that time, told the Press *“The Christchurch Botanic Gardens are acknowledged world-wide as among the best there are in terms of plant collections and general presentation, but their true value and potential as a resource for public benefit is hampered by the lack of a public information centre.”* It was noted at this time that the Botanic Gardens were visited by 900,000 people a year.⁶⁷⁷

Concurrent with the establishment of the Information Centre, Botanic Gardens' staff introduced a public lecture programme that operated for approximately six years. At that point, attendance numbers declined due to a plethora of lectures on offer from other institutions (the Horticultural Society, schools and polytechnic evening classes). However, public interest in hands-on practical demonstrations increased, and subjects such as rose pruning and the division of herbaceous perennials were offered as short seminars, thus reviving a programme initiated by James Young in 1910.

Under Warwick Scadden's curatorship, a Herb Garden was formed in 1987 in the location previously occupied by the Clematis Garden, and the piers from the lengthy clematis pergola were utilised as part of this new garden.⁶⁷⁸ Two years later a Fragrant Garden was constructed on the south-west side of the Show House complex between Foweraker and Cunningham Houses. Established as a sesquicentennial year project, with significant financial support from a number of Canterbury women's organisations, this garden was laid out to be of particular benefit to visitors with impaired vision.⁶⁷⁹

In 1989 the Friends of the Botanic Gardens was officially registered as an incorporated society. Formed from a common desire to help maintain the Botanic Gardens as one of the "jewels in the crown" of Christchurch, this group began as a Friends of the Gardens Society in 1988. From that time the Friends have provided financial support for research projects, acted as independent advocates for the improvement of the Botanic Gardens, and provided guided walks and talks. One of the high-profile projects in which the Friends were involved was the creation of the demonstration kitchen garden in the grounds of the Curator's House. The garden was designed by City Council's landscape architect, Dennis Preston.⁶⁸⁰

⁶⁷⁶ Sharrocks, A. (1980) *Hagley Park: Conflict, decision-making and changing perceptions in public open space*, p. 119

⁶⁷⁷ *The Press*, 6 February 1985; 23 February 1985

⁶⁷⁸ *Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2007*, p. 20

⁶⁷⁹ <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cityleisure/parkswalkways/christchurchbotanicgardens/collections/gardens.aspx>
Accessed November 2011

⁶⁸⁰ Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/Dennis Preston, Christchurch City Council, 2011

Another significant project led by the Friends was the funding of the pergola in the children's playground. This was constructed as part of a re-design of the playscape that involved the construction of two pools to meet the play needs of different age groups. Playground areas were also redesigned in a corresponding format and playground equipment was upgraded. The design of both the playground and the Fragrant Garden were undertaken by landscape architects employed by the City Council.

In the 1990s, the Botanic Gardens' management structure was rationalised and the positions of Curator and Botanic Gardens Education Officer were broadened to include other city-wide functions. Scadden became the Horticultural Operations Team Leader for the City and the Education Officer's duties expanded to encompass education coordination on a city-wide basis. These changes moved the governance of the Botanic Gardens from a sole curatorial charge to a consultative practice of management plans and management teams made up of Botanic Gardens' staff, Parks and Waterways planners, landscape architects etc.

In 1992, the remaining Magnetic Observatory building became the base for Te Puna Ora, a Ngāi Tahu venture that funded a storyteller to take plant, Māori myth and legend-focused tours through the Native Section of the Gardens. This venture was tied to the creation of 'Te Puna Ora -The Spring of Life', an artesian-fed water feature with associated rock carvings located west of the central Rosary and adjacent to the Water Garden. Commissioned by the City Council, and carved by Douglas Woods and Riki Manuel, the work celebrates both Māori and Celtic heritage.

Other more temporary landscape interventions were placed in the Botanic Gardens as part of the 'Sculpture in the Gardens' programme. This biennial event began in 1993 and was jointly presented by the Robert McDougall Art Gallery and the Botanic Gardens. Using the backdrop of the Gardens for site-specific works and background botanical setting, sculptural interventions became part of the landscape for four months of the year over the summer period.⁶⁸¹



Figure 3.96. Neil Dawson's Flying Chairs, Pine Mound, 1993
Source: Neil Dawson, private collection

⁶⁸¹ Essay by Felicity Milburn in *Catalogue of the fourth Sculpture in the Gardens Exhibition, 1999*

Early works included Neil Dawson's 'Flying Chairs' on the Pine Mound, Bing Dawes' 'Eels alongside the Avon River' behind the playground, Fiona Gunn's 'Seed' on the Archery Lawn and Len Lye's posthumous work 'Blade' on the Pine Mound. Permanent sculptural works were also added at this time including 'Regret' by Sam Mahon, which was originally part of the 1997 'Sculpture in the Gardens' event. This was gifted to the Botanic Gardens by Robin Judkins⁶⁸² and became a permanent feature in the pool at the east end of the Archery Lawn following the end of the event. Two years later 'An Inside Outlook' by Stewart Griffiths was retained in the azalea and magnolia garden.

Other SCAPE (New Zealand Community Trust Art and Industry Urban Arts Biennial) events also used the Botanic Gardens as the backdrop for sculptural works. In late 2002 Caroline Rothwell's public sculpture 'Kotuku' was a feature of the Water Garden pond and Ani O'Neil populated the Cuninghame House with fauna and fungus fashioned from bread bags and raffia.⁶⁸³ Most recently Héctor Zamora's installation 'Muegano' was installed in the lakelet next to the Information Centre.

However, the most significant new landscape feature added during this period was the reinstated Peacock Fountain. Returned to the Botanic Gardens after an absence of almost 50 years, and following three years of conservation, the fountain was placed in a new, high-profile location near the Museum entrance to the Gardens in 1996. Described in *The Press* as "*the most glorious bit of squirting available*" the fountain was not without its detractors and criticism was levelled at both its prominent position and its exuberant colour scheme.⁶⁸⁴ (Refer Volume 3: 1.11.3)

Documented commemorative tree planting activities during Scadden's 21 year period included the planting of a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) by Queen Elizabeth II in February 1983. This was felled in a protest action two months later.⁶⁸⁵ The following year the Governor of Gansu, Christchurch's sister city, planted an *Ulmus parvifolia* (Chinese elm) to commemorate the visit of his delegation to the city. This was removed for an unknown reason. Another commemorative occasion saw Dr Warwick Harris, President of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, plant an *Acer pseudoplatanus* (sycamore) on the Potts Lawn in 1990 (extant).

Following Warwick Scadden's departure to another position his role was filled through short term tenures by Craig Oliver and Barry Samson, Botanical Services Team Managers.⁶⁸⁶

⁶⁸² Creator of the world famous Speights Coast to Coast multi-sport event

⁶⁸³ Works on display between September and November

⁶⁸⁴ *Public Art in Christchurch: A study by the Robert McDougall Art Gallery*, Peacock Fountain, p. 34

⁶⁸⁵ *The Press*, 22 April 1986, Clipping file, CBGA

⁶⁸⁶ *Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2007*, p. 20

3.12.2 Hagley Park

In Hagley Park, the Beautifying Society continued its ongoing daffodil planting project in North Hagley Park in addition to a mass 1983 planting around the Carlton Mill Bridge.⁶⁸⁷ Meanwhile, another threatened encroachment to the fringes of the Park on Hagley Avenue and Deans Avenue occurred in 1985 when plans for angle car-parking were proposed. This plan necessitated the setting back of Hagley Park's fenceline to provide additional parking deemed necessary for weekend sporting matches.⁶⁸⁸ Plans were circulated to the public who once again rejected this as another unacceptable proposal to abstract land from Hagley Park.

The same year a number of the *Wellingtonia gigantea* lining the edge of the United Car Park were removed because of their declining health. These had been planted by John Armstrong in the 1870s and were a particular feature of this part of North Hagley Park. Much was made of their pending removal in local newspapers and, by way of addressing the public's concern over the loss of these landmark plantings, Neil Drain, Director of Parks and Recreation, confirmed that Council policy concerning dead and dying trees in the Park was to remove and replace them to retain the character of Hagley Park.⁶⁸⁹

Challenging this ideal of character retention somewhat, two large-scale sporting facilities were added to the landscape of South Hagley Park between 1968/1969 and 1992. The first of these, a two-tiered building off Riccarton Avenue was constructed for use as a Cricket Sports Centre, now the home of the Canterbury Horticultural Centre. This was followed in 1992 by the two-storied building currently occupied by Christchurch Netball and utilised in part as a function centre. Located near Moorhouse Avenue, this replaced the Canterbury Netball Union pavilion.

The Kate Sheppard Memorial Walk was formally opened in 1993 to commemorate the work of the suffragist Kate Sheppard.⁶⁹⁰ Canterbury women's groups gifted 100 camellias to the Botanic Gardens in 1990, and these formed the beginning of the Memorial Walk that was laid out adjacent to the Avon River near the Pilgrim's Well. In 1993, a new variety of white camellia named Kate Sheppard was created to mark the hundredth anniversary of the successful Sheppard-led suffrage campaign. The Kate Sheppard Camellia, together with numerous other camellia varieties and species planted on the walk, reference the suffragists' use of camellias as part of their 1893 equal political rights to women campaign.

The same year, new garden beds were formed under the trees in South Hagley Park across Deans Avenue from Nancy's Hotel (formerly the Riccarton Hotel). These beds were planted with 1,000 Ilam azaleas gifted by Christchurch businessman, Kenneth Weaver. The azaleas had been specially propagated by the University of Canterbury at Weaver's request for the South Hagley Park location "to give pleasure each spring to people driving to work."⁶⁹¹ An additional 1,000 Ilam azaleas including some Ilam Galaxy 'Virgo' (white) were gifted by Weaver to celebrate the millennium. These were planted at the Riccarton Avenue entrance to North Hagley Park.⁶⁹²

⁶⁸⁷ Strongman, T. (1999) *City Beautiful: The first 100 Years of the Christchurch Beautifying Association*, pp. 67 & 78,

⁶⁸⁸ *The Star*, 22 October 1985

⁶⁸⁹ Neil Drain, Director of Parks and Recreation, cited in *The Press*, 6 March 1985, Clipping book, CBGA

⁶⁹⁰ A Christchurch-based social reformer who repeatedly co-led petitions to Parliament for New Zealand women to be eligible to vote

⁶⁹¹ Kenneth F. Weaver Charitable Trust Incorporated

⁶⁹² *Canterbury Magazine*, p. 25, <http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/canterbury/Canterbury0701.pdf> ; Accessed May 2012

A further 120 Yoshino cherries (*Prunus x yedoensis*) were planted on either side of Riccarton Avenue in 1994, with a succession planting in May 2000 of 60 trees designed to ultimately replace the aging 1950s plantings.

The Heritage Rose Garden on the Murray-Aynsley Lawn was remodelled in 1999 to provide for a larger collection of plants. Structures for rose supports and seating areas were added at this time. Other points of interest included two sculptures that had been previously placed along the Woodland Garden walk leading from the Murray-Aynsley Lawn to the Hospital. These were 'The Wrestlers', added in 1990 and 'Taking Flight', a bronze fountain donated by the Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Institute of Foundrymen in 1993.

In the Pinetum new species were added, the most significant of these being a *Pinus wallichiana* (Himalayan Pine) planted by His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, in May 1992. This planting marked his first visit to Christchurch and was associated with the placement of a mani stone⁶⁹³ at the foot of the tree.⁶⁹⁴



Figure 3.97. 'Taking flight', donated by New Zealand Foundrymen's Institute
Source: L. Beaumont 2011

Nurses' Memorial Chapel and grounds

In 1989, Christchurch City Council took over the maintenance of the Nurses' Memorial Chapel grounds. Situated at 2 Riccarton Avenue, in the grounds of Christchurch Hospital and facing Riccarton Avenue, the Chapel was constructed between 1927 and 1928. Originally attached to other buildings in the hospital complex, the site had been specially chosen for its Riccarton Avenue frontage, "south of the covered way leading from the Children's Ward to the Isolation Block, to enable cripples and persons in wheeled chairs to enter."⁶⁹⁵

⁶⁹³ Tibetan prayer stone inscribed with the universal mantra 'Om Mani Padme Hum'

⁶⁹⁴ Christchurch Peace Walk, <http://www.christchurch.org.nz/publications/PeaceWalk.pdf> Accessed May 2012

⁶⁹⁵ Christchurch Hospital Nurses' Memorial Chapel: Papers. CAWU 666 8b, ANZ

Attempts by the North Canterbury Hospital Board to demolish the Chapel as part of its hospital expansion programme had prompted the issue of a Protection Notice by the Minister of Conservation in August 1989. The notice applied to the Memorial Chapel and its setting, which was deemed to be the piece of land on which the Chapel was sited and a buffer of three metres around the perimeter.⁶⁹⁶ This action by the Minister was supported by the City Council and a number of other organisations, and led to a land transfer proposal between Council and the Hospital that involved the return of the Memorial Chapel and grounds to Hagley Park. While land rationalisation discussions were underway, the Canterbury Area Health Board agreed to lease the building and surrounding land to the City Council which agreed to become responsible for the Chapel ground's maintenance. It was further resolved that the City Council would contribute to the Chapel's retention through surveying, landscaping design and legal services pertaining to the Reserves classification, at no cost.⁶⁹⁷

Landscape implementation was carried out in 1992 and the design of the Chapel grounds was the work of Anne Greenup, City Design, in conjunction with the Friends of the Nurses' Chapel. The overall planting scheme included medicinal plants and heritage roses, many of which were gifted, and in some cases personally planted, by individuals wishing to commemorate colleagues, friends or family members who had links with the hospital.⁶⁹⁸ (Refer Volume 2:1.9.3 for a full building history).



Figure 3.98. The Nurses' Memorial Chapel grounds soon after design implementation and planting. Source: BGPA

⁶⁹⁶ Ibid

⁶⁹⁷ 'Land Exchange at Christchurch Hospital', Minutes, Parks and Recreation Committee, 13 July 1994, CCCA

⁶⁹⁸ Beaumont, L. (2010) *Nurses' Memorial Chapel Reserve: Historical Investigation and Assessment*

3.13 David Given - Botanical Services Curator 2003 - November 2005 Jeremy Hawker - Operations Manager/Acting Curator 2003 to present

3.13.1 Botanic Gardens

David Given was responsible for much of the initial planning for a number of significant new projects that are scheduled for completion over the coming years. The first of these was the Gondwana Project, for which he prepared a scoping report in 2001, prior to taking up the role as Curator.⁶⁹⁹ Planning for this project continued after Given's death and has been further developed by his successor.

During Given's curatorship work on the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan began in 2004. Although not officially accepted by Council until after his death, this document included the results of his extensive review of the role and function of the Botanic Gardens as a twenty-first-century institution. As part of this review a public consultation programme was undertaken in 2004/2005 and over 2,500 people were interviewed to gain insights into visitor satisfaction, visitor numbers and patterns and visitor profiling.⁷⁰⁰ This information was used by City Council staff responsible for the preparation of the Management Plan to help identify specific areas in need of change and it also helped to inform the future vision for both the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.

New fixed-feature elements introduced during Given's brief time in the role included a new Kiosk footbridge that was opened in May 2003, and the placement of four artworks by Raymond Herber. These seasonal sculptures; a three metre daffodil, a rose, falling oak leaves and a fern frond, were placed around the Botanic Gardens and in the Woodland in 2004.⁷⁰¹ The following year an interactive teaching aid designed by Judith Street was installed which depicted Canterbury flora and fauna from the mountains to the sea.

A Peace Bell from the World Peace Bell Association of Japan was presented to Christchurch in 2005 and installed in the Botanic Gardens within a purpose designed pavilion in October 2006. The bell, which is believed to be one of only 21 in the world,⁷⁰² is the only peace bell in New Zealand. One year later, a camphor tree was planted near the bell by the Deputy Mayor. This was a second-generation cutting, from a tree that survived the Nagasaki atomic bomb in 1945.⁷⁰³ Both the bell and the camphor tree, together with the Dalai Lama mani stone, the Bandsmen's Memorial, the Kate Sheppard walk and the site of the Lantern ceremonies in Hagley Park, are part of a recognised Peace Walk that winds through the city.⁷⁰⁴

⁶⁹⁹ Appendix in Fortune, D. 'Gondwana Project, Christchurch Botanic Gardens', undated online paper, <http://www.anta.canterbury.ac.nz/documents/GCAS%20electronic%20projects/David%20fortune%20project.pdf> Accessed July 2011

⁷⁰⁰ Opinions Market Research Ltd, Visitor Audit and Profile Exercise, Botanic Gardens 2004

⁷⁰¹ 'Giant daffodil takes up residence in Hagley Park' Christchurch City Council Press release, 5 October 2004 (online bulletin); *The Star*, 37 April 2007

⁷⁰² World Peace Bell World Map, http://www009.upp.so-net.ne.jp/wpba/e_peacebell.html Accessed November 2012

⁷⁰³ <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cityleisure/artsculture/christchurchheritage/peacecity/peaceinitiatives.aspx#jumplink13> Accessed May 2012

⁷⁰⁴ Christchurch Peace Walk leaflet (undated) <http://www.christchurch.org.nz/publications/PeaceWalk.pdf> Accessed May 2012

The Herb Garden, containing an extensive range of plants used for culinary and medicinal purposes, was refurbished between 2005 and 2006 and three demonstration gardens were installed in the winter of 2007. These demonstration gardens were designed as part of a collaborative research project by Lincoln University lecturers and students and Landcare, and were funded by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. Located between the Herb Garden and the Botanic Gardens nursery and service area, on a site 45 metres in length, the gardens were designed to reflect different themes; The Rock/Scree/ Beach Garden, Bush Garden and Formal Native Garden.

The project as a whole made use of indigenous plants from typical environments of Christchurch city, Banks Peninsula and the Canterbury Plains as well as decorative elements. At the time of their installation, the gardens were described by their creators as *“address[ing] on one hand an educational and scientific goal (showing different collections of native plants) and on another – decorative and practical: how to attract and inform the public on using native plants in their front and back yards.”*⁷⁰⁵

In 2007 *The Botanic Gardens Management Plan* and the *Master Plan for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens* were approved by the Christchurch City Council. In line with the goals determined as part of the management planning process, specific projects were formulated and a number of these were initiated and/or further developed. The most significant of these, the design of a multi-purpose Botanic Gardens Centre to house the Gardens' research library, a café, retail space, glasshouses, nursery, function room and staff offices, became the subject of a limited design competition in 2008.⁷⁰⁶



Figure 3.99. Seasonal sculptures by Raymond Herber, Daffodil Woodland and Botanic Gardens.
Source: L. Beaumont 2011-2012

⁷⁰⁵ Lincoln University News Archives 2006, Accessed January 2012. [http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/News--Events/News/Archive/2006/Landscape-students-provide-practical-designs-for-Botanic-Gardens/'The new Demonstration Native Gardens in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens'](http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/News--Events/News/Archive/2006/Landscape-students-provide-practical-designs-for-Botanic-Gardens/'The%20new%20Demonstration%20Native%20Gardens%20in%20the%20Christchurch%20Botanic%20Gardens'), *Friends of the Botanic Gardens Newsletter*, No 76, Autumn 2009, pp. 4-8

⁷⁰⁶ Christchurch City Council Press release, Friday, 16 December 2011, (online bulletin)

3.15.2 Hagley Park

In addition to a regular tree replacement programme, new works included the formation of the Big M Fitness Track in 2005. This 3.75 kilometre track with eighteen exercise stations was associated with the YMCA.

Two years later, in November 2007 the Christchurch City Council acquired the naming rights to Auckland's Ellerslie Flower Show and the first show was held on a portion of North Hagley Park in March 2009. This event continues today as the Ellerslie International Flower Show, one of two iconic city events, and is seen as an important facet of Christchurch's national and internationally known 'Garden City' brand.⁷⁰⁷



Figure 3.100. Sculpture Garden beside Lake Albert, Ellerslie Flower Show
Source: CCL-CHCH-2010-03-09-DSC-0270, CL



Figure 3.101. Sculpture Garden beside Lake Albert, Ellerslie Flower Show
Source: CCL-CHCH-2010-03-09-DSC-0285, CL

⁷⁰⁷ <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cityleisure/eventsfestivals/iconicevents/ellerslieinternationalflowershow/keyfactsabouttheevent.aspx> Accessed February 2013

3.14. John Clemens 2009- present

Jeremy Hawker Operations Manager 2009 to present

3.14.1 Botanic Gardens

Development of the new Botanic Gardens Centre continued under John Clemens and Jeremy Hawker.⁷⁰⁸ However, as a consequence of the September 2010 and February 2011 earthquakes the project time-line was delayed and construction is now scheduled for 2013.

A new solar-powered, all weather, electric 'Caterpillar' transport vehicle replaced the 1970s "Toast rack" tour vehicle in 2009. The following year, the Magnetic Observatory was converted into a small museum to mark the centenary of the erection of the first Observatory building. Other changes saw a row of *Trachycarpus fortunei* returned to the South Walk, these having been first planted there as a 'Palm Avenue' by Ambrose Taylor in 1904.

A landscape conservation plan was commissioned to ensure that the Botanic Gardens' significant heritage values were identified, and appropriate policies formulated to best protect the historic identity and heritage fabric of both the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park, including their settings. Concurrent with this, the development of the Gondwana Project was progressed, and on 29 January 2013 Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker, together with members of the former Botanic Gardens Curator Dr David Given's family planted a Wollemi Pine in the Gondwana Garden to mark the 150th anniversary of the Botanic Gardens.⁷⁰⁹



Figure 3.102. Members of the former Botanic Gardens' Curator Dr David Given's family, with Mayor Bob Parker left and Greg Kitson of Ambrosia Nursery planting the Wollemi Pine, January 2013
Source: Christchurch City Council album <https://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchCityLibraries>

⁷⁰⁸ In the intervening period between David Given's death and John Clemens' appointment, Jeremy Hawker acted in the role of Curator and continued to progress the long-term direction outlined in the Hagley Park and Botanic Gardens Masterplan

⁷⁰⁹ <http://www.rebuildchristchurch.co.nz/blog/2013/1/jurassic-tree-planting-launches-botanic-gardens-150th-anniversary>; <https://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchCityLibraries> January 19, 2013

As a consequence of the September 2010 and February 2011 earthquakes, 21 trees in the Botanic Gardens were removed for public safety reasons. The most noticeable removals were along Park Terrace in Hagley Park and on the lawns near the Children's Playground. Losses included 4 *Betula*, 7 *Quercus*, 1 *Castanea*, 4 *Pinus* (including two maritime pines on the Pine Mound), 1 *Tilia*, 2 *Populus*, 1 *Acer* and 1 *Eucalyptus* on or near the Rock Garden.⁷¹⁰ All of these trees were removed because of damage to their root plates. The only tree to physically topple over was a very large *Quercus* on the Playground Lawn, which took three trees with it.⁷¹¹ The profile of the rock garden was noted to have changed because of liquefaction and cracking was also sustained to the base of the Water and Rock Gardens.

A number of the Botanic Gardens' built structures and ornamental features also sustained damage. This included the marble statues in both Townend House and Cuninghame House, the 'An Inside Outlook' sculpture in the Azalea and Rhododendron Dell, the base of the Peace Bell and the Herbert Memorial pavilion. The Gardens' Show Houses were also earthquake casualties and these (Cuninghame House, Townend House, the Fern House, Gilpin, Garrick and Foweraker Houses) together with the Tea Kiosk remain closed to the public pending decisions around their repair.⁷¹² In spite of this, the Botanic Gardens continues to attract large numbers of visitors, and it has taken on an additional post-earthquake importance for many Christchurch residents who consider it a sanctuary and a constant in a central city left bereft of landmarks.⁷¹³

In July 2011 the Gardens' tree collection sustained additional losses and damage due to a snow storm. Approximately 100 trees lost limbs and, within the native bush of the Cockayne Garden, a number of canopy trees were lost with additional damage sustained to the sub-canopy shrubs and ground covers.

Over the past four years the ornamental and educational amenity of the Botanic Gardens has been utilised for a diverse number of events. Examples include KidsFest, (New Zealand's biggest annual children's festival), children's storytelling, outdoor film events, circus and street theatre as well as Christchurch's yearly Festival of Flowers. Recent events have involved the construction of an ephemeral memorial garden for the anniversary of the February 2011 earthquake.⁷¹⁴

The Botanic Gardens also continue to provide a venue for smaller scale community activities such as summer theatre, Sunday bandstand concerts and regular performances by Christchurch artists. Workshops, such as the edible gardens in schools workshops for teachers and parents, rose pruning, vegetable gardening, and waterwise gardening among others, are also part of the Botanic Gardens' recent short course programme for the members of the public.

⁷¹⁰ *Friends of the Botanic Gardens Newsletter*, No. 84, Autumn/Winter 2011 & No. 85, Spring, 2011

⁷¹¹ *Friends of the Botanic Gardens Newsletter*, No. 85, Spring, 2011

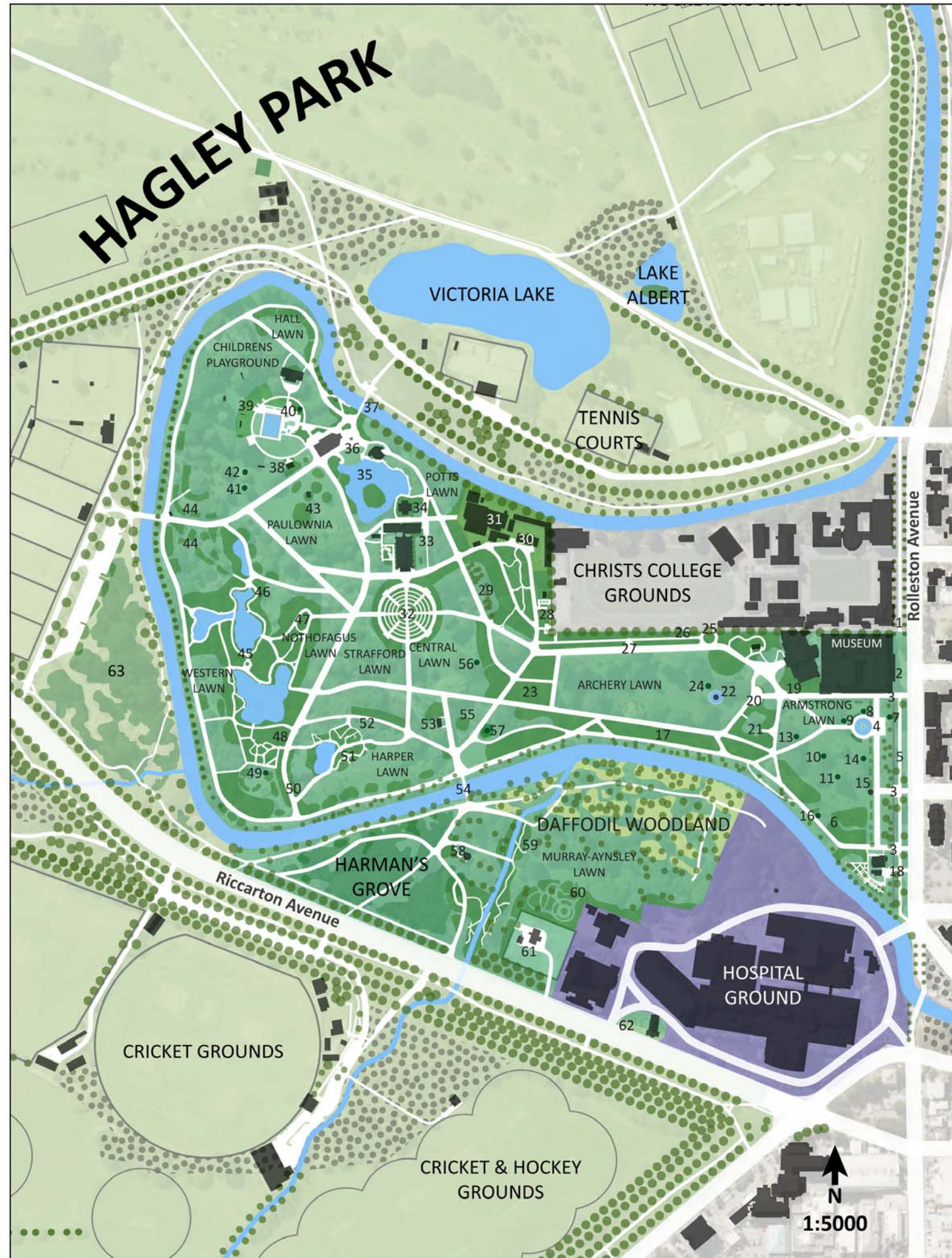
⁷¹² Future Christchurch: Botanic Gardens Glasshouses, 9 January 2013 updated, <http://www.futurechristchurch.co.nz/facilities/botanic-gardens-glasshouses-townsend-garrilgilpin,-cunningham,-foweraker> Accessed January 2013

⁷¹³ Meredith Dyer and Guy Frederick, 'The Space Between Words Photojournalism Project', Guy Frederick Exhibition, February to April 2013, Turnbull Room, National Library; Pers.comm. L. Beaumont/John Wilson, January 2013

⁷¹⁴ <http://www.festivalofflowers.co.nz/christchurch-botanic-gardens/129-commemorative-event-> Accessed May 2012

BOTANIC GARDENS AND SURROUNDS 2012 LAYOUT

- 1. Peacock fountain 2003 Source: B. Hudson
- 2. Peace Bell, 2007 Source: Scoop media
- 3. Alpine Ash, 2012 Source: L. Beaumont



Key

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mixed avenue planting of lime, elm, pin oak, copper beech, norway maple, plane, ginkgo and betula 2. Rolleston Statue 3. Iron gated entrances - Museum approach established as main entrance 4. Peacock fountain and pump house 5. Rolleston Avenue stone wall 6. Scarlet oak border 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. Quercus robur planted by descendants of Enoch Barker 13. Fagus sylvatica var. atropunicea planted by Lord Jellicoe 14. Cedrus deodara planted to celebrate John Armstrong's birthday 15. Moorhouse Statue 16. Quercus robur planted to commemorate the marriage of George V 17. River Walk Border 18. Curator's house with demonstration kitchen garden 19. Robert McDougall Art Gallery 20. Eveleyn Couzins Memorial Gateway beside Pine Mound 21. Cherry Mound with Jamieson tazza 22. Circular pool with 'Regret' installation 23. Japanese Maple Border 24. Agathis australis planted by the Prince of Wales 25. Iris garden 26. Christ's College brick wall and Diocesan Library door 27. Hunter Sundial and seat between two lengthy Herbaceous Border Gardens 28. Demonstration gardens and Herb garden 29. Australian Lawn 30. Office and Library 31. Nursery area with shade house, potting shed, glasshouses, frames etc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32. Rose garden with Stevenson Sundial and seats 33. Show Houses - Cuninghame Winter Garden, Townend Conservatory, Garrick House, Gilpin House Foweraker House and Fragrant Garden 34. Fern House 35. Reformed Kiosk Lake 36. Tea Kiosk and Information Centre 37. Kiosk Bridge (North Bridge) 38. H. F. Herbert Memorial Pavilion 39. Pergola 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, Climatological Station and Magnetic Observatory Museum 44. Azalea, Rhododendron and Magnolia Dell with 'An Inside Outlook' installation 45. Water Gardens with stone bridge 46. 'Te Puna Ora' Spring 47. Iconic New Zealand plant collection 48. Cockayne Memorial Garden including Leptospermum and Hebe area 49. Phyllocladus toatoa replacement for P. glaucus planted by Professor Skottsborg 50. Beswick's Tilia edged walk 51. Heather Garden 52. Exotic Rock Garden 53. Peace Bell, memorial Camphor tree and Rotary Peace Community plaque 54. Woodland Bridge (South Bridge) 55. Cherry Mound 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 and Acclimatisation Society plaque 60. Heritage Rose Garden 61. Ex Caretaker's Cottage 62. Nurses Memorial Chapel 63. Pinetum <p>* Hippocratic Plane - may be incorporated into Botanic Gardens/Hagley Park as part of land swap</p> |
|---|---|

Sources

Refer figure 3.105 Map of Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens 2012

Figure 3.103 Map of the Botanic Gardens and surrounds 2012

3.15.2 Hagley Park

Like the Botanic Gardens, the landscape of Hagley Park was significantly impacted by the September 2010 and February 2011 earthquakes. North Hagley Park was a major site of liquefaction, damage was sustained to the Nurses' Memorial Chapel and the Bandsmen's Memorial Rotunda, and it was necessary to remove approximately 19 trees. After a day of localised flooding Victoria Lake drained necessitating remedial work to address cracking in the lake's clay base as well as stabilisation works to the banks. The lake remained empty until March 2012.⁷¹⁵

During this time North Hagley Park was the scene of two memorial services for victims of the earthquake. The first, on March 18th 2011, included a tree planting ceremony which was carried out by Prince William assisted by Mark Soloman, Ngāi Tahu, the Prime Minister John Key and his wife Bronagh. Signifying the rebirth of the city, the tree, an English beech, was planted on the park side of the Avon River near Salisbury Street.⁷¹⁶ In addition to Prince William and the Prime Minister, other high-profile guests attending the service included the New Zealand and Australian Governors General, the Australian Prime Minister, a member of the Australian Opposition and a number of New Zealand politicians and other overseas officials. The second memorial service was held on February 22nd 2012.

Post earthquake, South Hagley Park was used as a temporary accommodation site and as a venue for earthquake briefings. It continues to be utilised as the city's sports hub and was the scene for a global protest action by 'Occupy Christchurch' for 150 days, between October 2011 and March 2012. North Hagley Park assumed the role of a temporary events village post earthquake. Both continue to be popular and well patronised venues for community and private celebrations and have been the recent backdrop for 'Classical Sparks' – a concert event that attracts between 80,000 to 120,000 people every year, Christmas in the Park, the Rugby World Cup Fanzone, the World Buskers' Festival and, most recently, the Christchurch Chinese New Year Lantern Festival and the New Zealand Ice Fest.



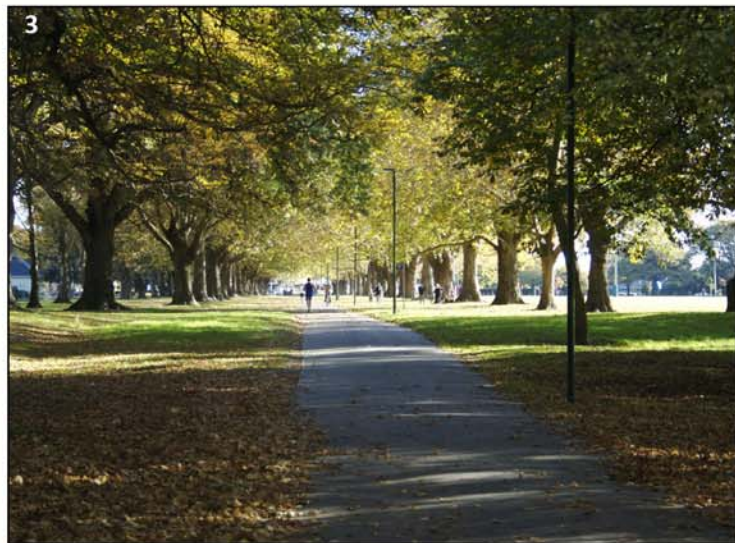
Figure 3.104. Uprooted tree following February 2011 earthquake, North Hagley Park
Source: L. Beaumont, 23 February 2011

⁷¹⁵ *The Press*, 9 March 2012 (on-line)

⁷¹⁶ Pers. comm. L. Beaumont / S. Malloy, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, November 2011

HAGLEY PARK AND BOTANIC GARDENS, 2012 LAYOUT

1. Yoshino Cherry display, 2011. Source: B. Hudson
2. Sentinel stone, North Hagley Park 2011. Source: L. Beaumont
3. Plane Avenue 2010. Source: L. Beaumont



Key

1. Bandsmen's Memorial Rotunda
2. Primula and Waterside Garden and Acclimatisation Society plaque
3. Heritage Rose Garden
4. Old Caretaker's cottage
5. Pinetum including Pinus wallichiana planted by His Holiness the Dalai Lama with 'mani stone', Pinus brutia (a descendant of the Gallipoli 'Lone Pine') and Councillor MacGibbon's Golden cedar
6. Philpott standing stone with 1950 planting of 12 oaks
7. Methodist Church marker
8. Godley Memorial near MacGibbon Gates
9. Pilgrim's standing stone
10. Pilgrim's Well
11. Three Sequoia sempervirens 'celebration trees' among a predominantly English oak planting
12. Armagh (South) Bridge with Mickle Gates
13. Kate Shepherd Memorial Walk
14. Bluebell Dell
15. Helmore's Bridge
16. Predominantly English oak plantation in Little Hagley Park
17. Millbrook Reserve mixed exotic and native species
18. Harper Avenue Arbor Day planting of cherry trees
19. Woodland
20. Dynes Memorial Gates
21. Nancy's Corner including Arbor Day plantings of Purple sycamore maple
22. Belt of Golden elm and Upright English oak
23. Belt and Plantation predominantly of Lime, Golden elm, Golden ash
24. Plantation of predominantly Golden ash, Upright English oak, Scots pine
25. Belt of predominantly Purple Sycamore maple, Golden ash, Upright English oak Purple Norway maple
26. Canterbury Horticultural Society building
27. Plantation of predominantly Purple sycamore, Manna ash, Upright English oak, common lime
28. Umpires' Pavilion and associated buildings
29. Christ's College Pavilion, associated buildings and original school gates relocated from Rolleston Avenue entrance
30. Riccarton Road 1950s, 1994 and 2000 cherry trees
31. Nurses' Memorial Chapel
32. Footballers' Memorial Pavilion

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

Sources

- Hagley Park Management Plan, 2007
- Friends of the Botanic Gardens Newsletters
- Public Art in Christchurch: A study by the Robert McDougall Art Gallery
- NZ Plants and Gardens, *Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture* 1970-1980
- Various Curator's Reports for 1980, 1981 & 1987, CH377, Box 30, CCCA Reserves, Hagley Park 1932-1970, CH134, File 8/3/35, ANZ
- Assistant Curator's Reports 1961, CH377 Box 53, CCCA
- Druett, J. (1983) *Exotic Intruders: The Introduction of Plants and Animals to New Zealand*
- Google Maps. Christchurch. Hagley Park and Botanic Gardens
- Notable Tree Trust New Zealand Records
- Aerial Imagery courtesy of Google Maps



Figure 3.105
Map of Hagley park and the Botanic Gardens 2012

Section 4

PEOPLE AND GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAGLEY PARK AND THE CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS



4. People associated with both landscapes

4.1 Individuals associated with the early administration of Hagley Park and the Christchurch Domain

4.1.1 Public Domains Board Commissioners

In 1864 four Commissioners were appointed by the Provincial Superintendent to oversee the early layout and planting of the Domain including the Acclimatisation Society Grounds. The group was made up of two members of the Acclimatisation Society and two representatives selected by the Superintendent. The first Commissioners were:⁷¹⁷

Sir John Hall - 1824-1907

Hall is described as the leading conservative politician in nineteenth-century New Zealand. He was a member of the Canterbury Provincial Council and held office on the Executive Council on three occasions. He was also active in local government and community activities and served on a number of local boards as a founding member. He was the leading spirit in the Selwyn County Council from 1877 to 1879, and held the Christchurch mayoralty in its exhibition year in 1906. He was a successful runholder, member of the Acclimatisation Society, member of the Horticultural Society in its various guises and a recognised pioneer of tree planting in Canterbury.⁷¹⁸

Henry Sewell - 1807-1879

An official of the Canterbury Association and one of the leaders among the first generation of colonial politicians, Sewell sat in the General Assembly for eleven years – four of these as Member of the House of Representatives for Christchurch. He was Colonial Treasurer and very briefly Premier, as well as being the first Chairman of the Commissioners.⁷¹⁹

Grosvenor Miles - 1822-1865

Miles was a leading Canterbury colonist. Described as a merchant who was in business with George Gould until 1859, he later went on to form Miles and Co., Stock and Station Agents. This was a branch of the well-known British firm, Miles Bros. and Co. of 79 Gracechurch Street, London. In 1863-1864 Miles and Co. exported 11,051 bales of wool from Canterbury. This was more than 60% of the Canterbury woolclip. Grosvenor Miles was elected to the first Christchurch Municipal Council. He served for Bishop Harper on the Christ Church Cathedral Commission and was also very active in the formation of the Mechanics Institute and a host of other bodies – Christchurch parish, the Musical Union, the Horticultural Society, the Museum Committee, the Fine Arts Society, the Domains Board, the Cricket Club and the Football Club. He in fact overreached himself, both physically and financially, dying in 1865 aged only 43.⁷²⁰

⁷¹⁷ 'Proceedings of the Commifision [Commission] appointed to promote the cultivation and planting of the Government Domain in connection with the objects of the Acclimatisation Society' 19 May 1864, CH343/133a, p. 2, CCCA

⁷¹⁸ <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/hall-hon-sir-john-kcmg/1>; Hall, Sir John (1898) Planting for shelter: A paper read to the Agricultural Conference, extracted from *New Zealand Country Journal*, [1898?], pp. 455-462

⁷¹⁹ <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/sewell-henry/1> Accessed May 2012

⁷²⁰ *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Canterbury Provincial District] 1906*; Messrs Miles & Co., Hereford Street, Christchurch, <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/heritage/photos/disc12/IMG0065.asp>; Star, P. (1991) *T.H. Potts and the origins of conservation in New Zealand 1850-1890*, p. 36

James Richard Hill - 1836 to 1898

James Hill was Director and President of the Board of Directors of the Bank of New South Wales. His obituary describes him as “well known in New Zealand” and a prominent director of the AMP Society.⁷²¹

4.1.2 Park and Domain Board/Canterbury Public Domains Board

In 1865, under the Provincial Gazette No. 67, dated Dec. 2, 1865, the Provincial Superintendent placed the general management of Hagley Park, and “*the superintendence of the works to be carried on therein*”, under the Domain Board. From that point the board was known as the Domains Board. (However from at least 1866, it was referred to in newspaper reports as the Park and Domain Board). Notable members appointed to this board (and subsequent boards) included:

Robert Wilkin - 1820-1886

On 25 July 1858 Wilkin, along with his wife, two children and brother, arrived at Lyttelton on the brig *Dart*. He bought the well-known property later called Avonbank from its first owner. Wilkin had an interest in various Canterbury properties, mostly in association with Robert Heaton Rhodes. In about 1871 he started business in Christchurch as a grain and seed merchant and general agent. He also dealt in wool and skins and was the first man to hold a local wool sale. Wilkin was elected a member for Timaru for the Provincial Council in 1860 and was re-elected next year, although he never lived there. He was active in the organisation of agricultural shows, was Chairman of the Middle Island Association, raced a few horses and took a considerable part in the administration of racing, being a member of the committee of the Canterbury Jockey Club for many years. He was an original Director of the Canterbury Saleyards Co. (Addington Yards). He took a great interest in acclimatisation and presented some black swans to the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society.⁷²² Wilkin's appointment to the Park and Domain Board and Domain Board was gazetted in 1865 and again in 1867 and 1873.

Edward Jollie - 1825-1894

Jollie was a pioneer land surveyor who arrived in New Zealand in 1842 as a cadet surveyor with the New Zealand Company. He worked in Wairau and Canterbury and laid out the town of Lyttelton and Christchurch. He later became Secretary of Public Works and Provincial Treasurer and was the first member of Parliament for Cheviot. He was also a farmer and a member of the Acclimatisation Society Council.⁷²³ Jollie's appointment to the Park and Domain Board was first gazetted in 1866.

George Gould (Senior) - 1823-1889

As a leading landowner and businessman, Gould was at one point the largest exporter of wool in the province and the first to sell wheat to London. He was a generous benefactor to the city and a member of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association and the Horticultural Society.⁷²⁴ Gould's appointment to the Park and Domain Board was gazetted in 1866 and 1874.

⁷²¹ G.R. MacDonald *Dictionary of Canterbury biographies Index* p. 259; *Marlborough Express*, 20 September 1898, p. 1

⁷²² <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/wilkin-robert/1> Accessed July 2012

⁷²³ <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/jollie-francis/1> Accessed July 2012

⁷²⁴ <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/4g16/1> Accessed May 2012

Cyrus Davie - 1821-1871

Cyrus Davie arrived on one of the first four ships. A trained surveyor and engineer, he was employed by Captain Thomas to work on maps for the settlement and was appointed Chief Surveyor in 1867. He was a member of the Acclimatisation Society and a keen horticulturalist, and was reputed to have been one of the first of the early colonists to succeed in raising large numbers of oaks from English acorns.⁷²⁵ Davie's appointment to the Park and Domain Board was gazetted in 1868.

Sir Charles C. Bowen - 1830-1917

Bowen arrived in Canterbury in 1850. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1852 and when the Canterbury Provincial Government was formed in 1853, he was appointed Inspector of Police, as well as Chief Clerk to the Resident Magistrate and Provincial Treasurer. In 1856 he was also appointed Commissioner and Treasurer of the Canterbury Waste Land Board. The central government made him one of its Commissioners of Native Reserves in 1858, and later Receiver of Land Revenue. He was editor and later joint owner of the Lyttelton Times. He was also a passionate educationalist and poet.⁷²⁶ Bowen's appointment to the Park and Domain Board was first gazetted in 1868 and 1874.

William Guise Brittan (Senior) - 1809-1876

As a Chairman of both the Society of Canterbury Colonists, and Society of Canterbury, William Brittan was at the forefront of moves to promote the colonisation of Canterbury in England. On his arrival in Christchurch he became an active member of the Horticultural Society and trustee of the Deans Estate and is described as a pioneer of both the Acclimatisation Society and cricket in Canterbury.⁷²⁷ Brittan's appointment to the Park and Domain Board was gazetted in 1870 and 1874.

Hugh P. Murray-Aynsley - 1828-1917

Murray-Aynsley arrived in Lyttelton in 1858. In the days of the Provincial Government he was a member of the Executive, and sat as member for Lyttelton in the Provincial Council. In 1869 he acted as Deputy-Superintendent of the province. He represented Lyttelton in the General Assembly during 1876–79. He was a partner in the firm of Miles and Co., and owned a sheep farm at Mount Hutt. He was a long-time member of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association and the Horticultural Society. The Murray-Aynsley Lawn was named in 1961 in his honour.⁷²⁸ Murray-Aynsley's appointment to the Public Domains Board was first gazetted in 1874 and again in 1877.

Richard J. S. Harman - 1826-1902

Richard Harman arrived on one of the first four ships and was appointed an Executive Officer of the Canterbury Provincial Council. He held the first lease on Hagley Park, working as a land agent from 1852. In 1862 he formed the company Harman and Stevens. He was President of the Canterbury Rowing Club from its first year in 1860 until his death, and presented it with two boats and a challenger cup. He was also president of the Canterbury Rugby Football Club for 36 years, as well as Captain of the Volunteer Militia. He was a member of the Waste Land Board, Chairman of the South Waimakariri Board of Conservation and member of the governing body of Christ's College. He served on the Domains Board in various capacities for some years, and gifted plant material to the Gardens,

⁷²⁵ <http://www.historic.org.nz/TheRegister/RegisterSearch/RegisterResults.aspx?RID=1873&m=advanced> Accessed July 2012

⁷²⁶ <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/bowen-sir-charles-christopher-kcmg/1> Accessed May 2012

⁷²⁷ <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/brittan-william-guise/1> Accessed May 2012

⁷²⁸ *The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand [Canterbury Provincial District] 1906*, p. 378

as well as the rhododendrons on the island opposite St Michael's Church. Harman's Grove, (an area of two acres extending in a westerly direction from the Primula Garden), was named in his honour in 1902.⁷²⁹ Harman's appointment was first gazetted in 1874 and again in 1877.

Edward Stafford - 1819-1901

Edward William Stafford was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He arrived in Nelson in 1843 after two years travelling in Australia. He explored an inland route to the Wairau, imported sheep and horses from Australia, and led a successful agitation for licences to pasture sheep on lands allotted to, but not used by, the original New Zealand Company settlers.

In 1853 he became Nelson's first Superintendent and then, at the 1855 election, became a member of the House of Representatives for Nelson. He held this seat until 1868 when, after local disputes, he resigned and became member for Timaru. Following this he was Premier for a total of nine years.

In 1873 Stafford purchased the Halswell property 'Landsdown' but returned to England in 1879. He died in London in 1901. He was renowned outside politics as a sportsman, one of the best jockeys and judges of horseflesh in New Zealand, a pastoralist and countryman, and a forester and landscape gardener, who set out the Government House gardens in Auckland. He was a regular contributor to and early member of the Acclimatisation Society and was an Acclimatisation Society Council member in the mid 1870s.⁷³⁰ The Stafford Lawn was named in 1961 in his honour.⁷³¹ Stafford's appointment to the Public Domains Board was first gazetted in 1874 and 1877.

William Rolleston - 1831-1903

William Rolleston was born in Yorkshire, England. He arrived in Lyttelton in 1858. He was taken on as a farming cadet at Lake Coleridge Station and soon purchased a neighbouring sheep run (Mount Algidus) which he sold in 1865. By this time he was well launched on a public career, having been appointed a member of a Commission on Education, headed by H. J. Tancred in 1863. He was also Provincial Secretary until 1865, when he was appointed Under Secretary in the Native Department.

In 1868, he was elected Superintendent of Canterbury and was returned unopposed in 1874. He was honoured on 16 December 1876 when a crowd of 12,000 witnessed a presentation marking the end of his superintendence.

Rolleston's career after 1876 did not match his previous record. He returned to politics but was ill equipped for the new era of Liberal party organisation and government. Defeated in 1893, he was returned in 1896, but not to the leadership of the opposition. In the 1899 election his parliamentary career ended.

Rolleston is remembered in the Botanic Gardens through his 1876 gift of a sundial (now lost) and his statue, erected in 1906 adjacent to the Museum. Following his death in 1903 Rolleston Avenue, formerly Antigua Street, was renamed in his honour.⁷³² Rolleston's appointment to the Public Domains Board was first gazetted in 1877.

⁷²⁹ Acland, L. G. D. (1946) *The Early Canterbury Runs: Containing the First, Second and Third (new) Series*, p. 95; Obituary, *Star*, 27 November 1902, p. 3

⁷³⁰ <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1s22/1> Accessed May 2012

⁷³¹ Assistant Curator's Report 30 September 1961-25 October 1961, p. 2, CH377 Box 53, File 19/18, CCCA

⁷³² <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/rolleston-william/1> Accessed May 2012

Thomas Potts - 1824-1888

Thomas Potts was born in London, England, and arrived in Lyttelton on 24 April 1854 with “a consignment of azaleas, rhododendra,(sic) ferns, and other choice plants and flowers.” These formed the nucleus of his own garden and were also a source of specimens for the public gardens and the gardens of his friends.⁷³³

On the strength of his early explorations Potts claimed land on the eastern side of the upper Rangitata River, where he quickly established a station, 'Hakaterere'. Although he paid lengthy visits to the station, where Mt Potts and the Potts River were named after him, it was run by managers. Meanwhile, Potts and his family resided at Ohinetahi, Governors Bay, a 225-acre property which he had purchased from William Sefton Moorhouse. The grounds at Ohinetahi were created by Potts, his six gardeners and his head gardener William Gray, and much of their tree-planting work is still in evidence.

From a gentlemanly sense of duty, Potts served as a member of the Canterbury Provincial Council on two occasions, and the House of Representatives, and became a Justice of the Peace and a synodman of the Anglican Church. In roles which were more in line with his real interests, he served as Vice President of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society and the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, and as President of the Horticultural Society. He was an original trustee of the Canterbury Museum in 1870, and one of the first governors of Canterbury College in 1873 – positions he held until his death. He was also an active member of the Domain Board.

He was an early experimenter with *Pinus radiata*, and a noted student of New Zealand's bird life. He published a number of papers in the *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* between 1869–73 and, in 1871, was elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society in London. He wrote almost 100 articles (some under the pen-name 'Rambler'), the best of which were published in the *New Zealand Country Journal* from 1878 to 1888.

Potts has been described as the “the nearest [New Zealand] had to a conscious theorist, as well as an exponent of "conservation for exploitation".⁷³⁴ The Thomas Potts Lawn was named in 1961 in his honour.⁷³⁵ Potts' appointment to the Public Domains Board was gazetted in 1873 and 1874.

Leonard Harper - 1832- 1915

Leonard Harper was the Member of the House of Representatives for Cheviot between 1876 and 1878 and represented the Avon electorate from 1884 to 1887. The fourth son of the late Bishop Harper, he was admitted to the bar, and practised law for many years in Christchurch in the well-known firm of Harper and Co. He took an interest in local affairs, and was a member and subsequent Chairman of the Christchurch Drainage Board, a member of the Domains Board, and Captain of Christ's College Rifles.

In 1892 he relocated to Jersey in the Channel Islands, and in 1895, was arrested and brought back to New Zealand to stand trial on two charge of misappropriation of funds for his own use. He was found not guilty of the charges and returned to the Channel Islands following the High Court trial, remaining there for the rest of his life. The Harper Lawn was named in 1961 in his honour.⁷³⁶

⁷³³ Star, P. (1991) *T.H. Potts and the origins of conservation in New Zealand 1850-1890*, p. 24

⁷³⁴ *Ibid*, p. 6

⁷³⁵ <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2p27/1> Accessed May 2012

⁷³⁶ *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Canterbury Provincial District] 1906*, p. 96

Harper's appointment to the Public Domains Board was gazetted in 1877 and he served as Chairman of the Board between 1882 and 1892.

James Richard Hill - 1836 to 1898

Refer earlier biography. Hill served as a Board member for some years according to gazetted notices which include appointments in 1867, 1871 and 1874.

4.1.3 Commissioners and the Christchurch Domains Board from 1872

Control of the Domain and Hagley Park continued under the administration of the Commissioners, as delegates of the Superintendent, until 1872 when the Canterbury Public Domain Act gave power for the constitution of a Domain Board. The first appointments under this Act were gazetted in 1873 and appointees appear to have been 'rolled over' from the previous regime. These were William Guise Brittan, Sir Charles C. Bowen, Sir John Hall, George Gould, W. Kennaway, James R. Hill, Edward Jollie, Robert Wilkin and Thomas Potts.⁷³⁷

At the end of 1876 the Provincial Council was dis-established and members of, what by then was known as the Parks and Domains Board, became the Christchurch Domains Board. A new gazette notice was issued on 13 December 1877, confirming these board members as Hugh Murray-Aynsley, John Hall, Leonard Harper, Richard Harman, Edward Stafford and William Rolleston.

By 1900 the Board was made up of five Government appointees plus the Honorable William Rolleston who was then Mayor of the City of Christchurch, the Mayors of Sydenham, St Albans, and Linwood Boroughs, the Chairman of the Selwyn County Council and the Chairman of the Riccarton Road Board.

Four years later, membership of the Board was formally defined in the Christchurch Domains Act 1904, as consisting of thirteen persons - four persons appointed by the Governor, four persons appointed by the Christchurch City Council (to include the Mayor), four persons appointed by the Selwyn County Council (to include the Chairman) and one person appointed by the Riccarton Road Board.⁷³⁸ Prior to 1905 the term of office for board members was seven years. After 1905 this was reduced to five years.

By 1928 the Board was made up of eighteen members – six appointed by the City Council, three appointed by the Governor and the remainder by the different contributing local bodies. Members undertook formal inspections once a year, unless specially warranted inspections were required.

4.1.4 Domains Board from 1876 to 1946⁷³⁹

Between 1876 and 1946 other leading citizens and notable members of the Domains Board included;

Frederick Hutton - Soldier, scientist, university professor

Dr Edward Levinge - Medical Superintendent of Sunnyside Asylum, President of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association

⁷³⁷ *The Press*, 28 January 1873, p. 2

⁷³⁸ *Christchurch Domains Act 1904*, Clause 3

⁷³⁹ Domains Board, AADS W3562 257 Record 1/562, ANZ

James Jamieson – Builder, businessman, art collector, philanthropist

Michael Murphy - Secretary of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association, Fellow of the Linnaean Society, garden writer

Harry Ell – Soldier, stationer, politician, conservationist

Edgar Stead - Engineer, horticulturist, ornithologist, marksman

Dr Charles (Chas) Chilton - Scientist, educationalist, Professor Emeritus of Canterbury College, founding member and member of the Executive Council of the Christchurch Beautifying Association

Richard [Riverbank] B. Owen - Tailor and conservationist, member of the Executive Council of the Christchurch Beautifying Association

Harry Joseph Beswick - Mayor of Christchurch 1896-1897, barrister and solicitor

James Arthur Flesher - Mayor of Christchurch 1923-1925, barrister and solicitor, Rechabite

Leonard Cockayne – Widely regarded as New Zealand’s greatest botanist and one of the country’s leading scientists, author, educationalist, member of the Christchurch Beautifying Association

Arthur H. Shrubshall - Seedsman and florist, horticultural judge, horticultural historian, member of the Executive Council of the Christchurch Beautifying Association

Henry Wigram - Businessman, politician, aviation promoter



Figure 4.1. Members of the Domains Board and local bodies inspecting the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park in October 1941. Source: Star, 20 October 1941, CBG Clipping book

4.2 Head Gardeners, Curators and others

Enoch Barker 1860-1867

Enoch Barker was the first Government Gardener appointed by the Christchurch Provincial Government. A Yorkshire man from Pontefract, he was reputed to have been trained in horticulture at Chatswood, Derbyshire, in the famous gardens of the Duke of Devonshire where Sir Joseph Paxton was Head Gardener.⁷⁴⁰

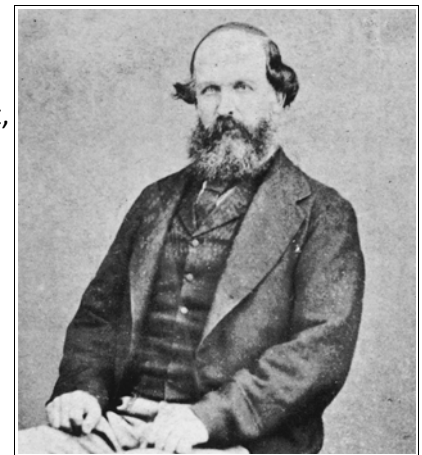


Figure 4.1. Enoch Barker

Following this, he worked on some of England's large estates between the late 1840s and 1850s before immigrating to New Zealand with his family.

He was appointed Government Gardener in early 1859, and resigned after August 1867 to establish his own nursery and market garden in Burwood. He supplied trees and plants for sale to local gardeners and grew vegetables for the local pickle factory. He met with an untimely death in the Avon River close to his home, while out for an early morning stroll.⁷⁴¹

In his role as Government Gardener, Barker was called upon to provide plants, guidance and oversee the laying out of landscapes associated with Provincial Council buildings, as well as the Cathedral Square planting and fencing, and the development of the greater Sunnyside Asylum grounds. He was credited with establishing the character of Christchurch's present-day landscape within the parameters of Edward Jollie's urban plan for the city.

John Armstrong 1867-1889

Joseph Armstrong 1873-1889

John Armstrong began his apprenticeship in England with a market gardener and seedsman at the age of twelve, then worked in various horticultural, forestry and gardening roles before emigrating to New Zealand in 1862.

In Christchurch he initially worked as a gardener to George Gould whose large property, 'Hambleden', was on Springfield Road and Bealey Avenue. In his spare time Armstrong studied the local flora and together with his son Joseph, botanised for Julius von Haast, the Director of the Canterbury Museum, collecting native species for the herbarium and for exchange. They also helped to arrange the Museum's botanical collections for each province.⁷⁴²

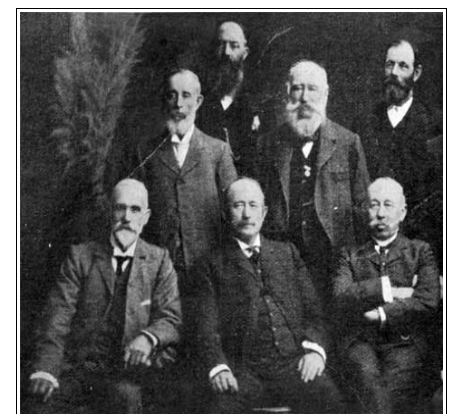


Figure 4.2. Horticultural & Landscape Gardening Committee NZ Exhibition, 1906. Joseph Armstrong, top left

On August 15th 1867 John was appointed to the position of Government Gardener. In this role he was responsible for overseeing the development of grounds associated with the Provincial

⁷⁴⁰ Challenger, S. (1979) The development of Early Canterbury Landscapes, *The Landscape*, March 1979

⁷⁴¹ Obituary Notice. *Evening Post* 18 January 1892

⁷⁴² Godley E. (1999) Biographical Notes (33): John Francis Armstrong (1820-1902) and Joseph Beattie Armstrong (1850-1926), *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter*, Number 55, March, pp. 23-29; TPRS NZ, Vol. 4, 1891

Government's buildings and was also Inspector of Forest Trees, a role which required him to visit and certify plantations under the 1871 Forest Tree Planting Act. During his years spent developing the Domain and Hagley Park he was severely constrained by a lack of funds. However, he and his son Joseph achieved impressive results, raising significant amounts of American tree seed which was distributed to public bodies throughout Canterbury and also planted across both the Domain and Hagley Park.

Father and son were responsible for the formation of a Pinetum and the extant Pine Mound. Their concern that native flora was being rapidly exterminated by the progress of settlement led them to establish an arboretum of New Zealand shrubs and trees. In 1907 this was described by Leonard Cockayne as “a splendid monument to the untiring energy of Messrs Armstrong, who without any encouragement from the Domain Board bought together the very finest collection of New Zealand plants in the world.”⁷⁴³

John and Joseph both resigned in 1889 following differences with the Domains Board. Each had published a number of papers in the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*. In addition, Joseph corresponded with William Robinson, author of the English publication *The Garden*, and had written number of reports on the flora of the province of Canterbury for this journal. He also published the first list of naturalised plants of Canterbury. On Joseph's death in 1926 his herbarium, - a collection of national importance, was acquired by the Christchurch Domain, together with his library of some 100 volumes and botanical instruments.⁷⁴⁴

Ambrose Taylor 1889-1907⁷⁴⁵

Taylor was descended on his father's side from gardeners and land stewards in the service of the Dukes of Bedford at Woburn Abbey. His father trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and had a distinguished gardening career. Taylor entered the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew as a student gardener in April 1852. He left in late 1852 to become foreman for the Earl of Harewood near Leeds.

Following this he is believed to have worked at Chatsworth, and then for Sir Anthony de Rothschild at 'Aston Clinton House' and may have spent some time in the employ of Baron de Rothschild. After Sir Anthony's death in 1876, Ambrose is understood to have worked as an independent consulting landscape gardener from offices in Westminster until 1883.

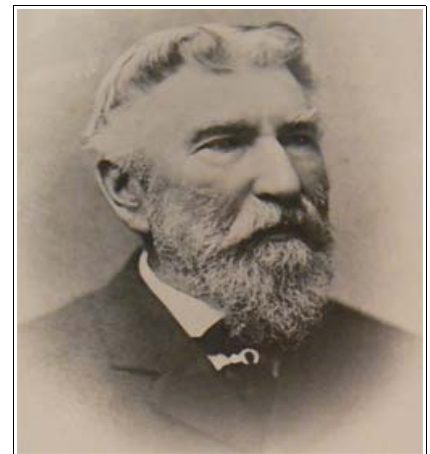


Figure 4.3. Ambrose Taylor

Following this, his work history is unclear until he, and his family arrived in Christchurch in May 1889. Six months after his arrival, Ambrose was selected from 23 candidates for the position of Head Gardener of the Christchurch Domain and was appointed on 19 October 1899. He remained in this capacity until his retirement in 1907 when he was well into his eighties.

⁷⁴³ *The Star*, 28 June 1907 p. 1

⁷⁴⁴ This equipment is no longer held by the Botanic Gardens

⁷⁴⁵ Tipples (1995) has cast some doubt as to the veracity of Taylor's own curriculum vitae and earlier published histories of his working life. The brief biography above traces Taylor's employment history as confirmed by Tipples in Ambrose Taylor 1826-1913: Curator, Botanic Gardens, Christchurch – the Early Years, *Horticulture in New Zealand*, Vol 6, No.1, Winter 1995

James Dawes 1907-1908

James Dawes was born in Westmoreland, England. Little is known of his early training, other than an early start in horticulture. He was employed as Head Gardener for Lord Buddulph of Ledbury Park Gardens, Herefordshire, for twenty years. During this time, he was involved in the reconstruction of the property's extensive gardens and the formation of the Ledbury Estate plantations. In addition to his duties at Ledbury he competed successfully with fruit and flowers at many British exhibitions, and was described on his arrival in New Zealand as "one of the most successful exhibitors of vegetables in England for the last 18 years."

In 1906 he relocated to New Zealand where he was briefly employed as a fruit expert and instructor for the New Zealand Department of Agriculture,⁷⁴⁶ before being appointed to the position of Head Gardener by the Christchurch Domains Board in June 1907.⁷⁴⁷ Dawes' employment with the Domains Board was brief and the Board accepted his resignation in May 1908 after discovering that he had been in the habit of taking too much drink and had been intoxicated while working.⁷⁴⁸

By 1911 he was employed as Superintendent of Centennial Park, Sydney; a position he held until his death in 1922.⁷⁴⁹ He was the third person to hold this position and worked under the Royal Botanic Gardens' Director, Joseph Henry Maiden. During his employment as Superintendent his advice was sought on improving the gardens and surrounds of the hotel at Mt Kosciusko, Kosciusko National Park, and the planting of trees for the Federal Capital of Canberra.⁷⁵⁰

James Young 1908-March 1934⁷⁵¹

James Young was the runner-up to James Dawes when the position of Head Gardener was advertised in 1907. At that time he was employed as Curator of the Ashburton Domain, having taken up the position in 1904. Prior to this he was employed for seventeen months as Head Gardener for Mr John Reid in his private estate 'Elderslie' in North Otago.

Young began his horticultural career as an apprentice on Sir Andrew Buchanan's estate of 'Craigend' in Strathblane, in 1878 and was then employed as a journeyman at Killermont House near Glasgow. Following this, he spent three years in charge of the Laxley Gardens on the Isle of Man before taking up a position as instructor at the State Nursery, Mount Macedon, Victoria, in 1887.



Figure 4.4. James Young

Young was appointed to the position of Head Gardener in June 1908 and worked for the Domain Board until 1933. Over this twenty-four year term he was responsible for effecting a significant transformation in the Botanic Gardens. One of his most heralded achievements was the

⁷⁴⁶ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 26 September 1906, p. 2

⁷⁴⁷ *The Star*, 11 June 1907, p. 4

⁷⁴⁸ Board Minutes, 11 May 1908, CH343 80e, CCCA

⁷⁴⁹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 July 1922, p. 10; Pers. comm. L. Beaumont/M. Garcia, February 2011

⁷⁵⁰ *Ibid*

⁷⁵¹ *New Zealand Truth*, 8 December 1923, p. 2; *A Garden Century 1863-1963*, pp. 47-48; *The Press*, 7 October 1932; Unsourced clipping, 5 November 1932, Clippings file 1929-1946, CH343/80d, CCCA

construction of a large Rose Garden in the centre of the Domain. This was described at the time as the largest Rose Garden in Australasia. For six years, in addition to his role as Curator, he was Superintendent of City Parks and Gardens and was responsible for the formation of six new city parks.

Young retired from the role of Curator because of failing health in November 1932 and was appointed to the position of Sports Superintendent occupying the old Acclimatisation Society cottage near the Nurses' Home until his death in March 1934. In accepting his letter of retirement the Domains Board praised his energy and the great improvements he had effected, noting that he had been an inspiration to gardening in Christchurch.

He was the author of *Rose Growing in New Zealand in 1921* and joint author of *Flower Gardening in New Zealand in 1926*.

James Anderson (Andrew) McPherson 1933-1945⁷⁵²

James McPherson was appointed to the position of Curator from a field of 54 applicants in February 1933. The first New Zealand-born curator to hold the office, he worked as an apprentice gardener at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens before being accepted for training at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London, in 1922. While there, he took specialist classes in plant breeding at Chelsea Polytechnic, and elementary land surveying at the Richmond Technical College, London, as well as other studies at the Rothamstead Experimental Station. In Paris he won the diploma of the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France for his work in reclassifying their New Zealand plants, a subject in which he maintained a lifelong interest.



Figure 4.5. James McPherson

On his return to New Zealand, he gained additional experience in forestry and horticulture by working as an improver and journeyman in the Dunedin Botanic Gardens, a plant propagator to the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition, Forester and Head Gardener to the Westport Coal Company, and Superintendent of Public Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Endowments under the Invercargill City Council. He was appointed to the position of Curator, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, in 1933 and was later appointed Director. While holding these positions he was responsible for the redesign of the Rose Garden, the development of the Cockayne Memorial Garden and the Alpine Garden, as well as the mass planting of daffodils in the Woodland.

In 1943 McPherson was sent to Tonga to supervise a project to produce fresh fruit and vegetables for New Zealand military personnel serving in the Pacific. Two years later he took up the position of Superintendent of Parks and Reserves with Auckland City Council, a position he held for nineteen years. During that time he designed a restoration scheme for the grounds of Pompallier House as part of that building's conservation programme.

Throughout his career McPherson strove to pass on his horticultural expertise to the public. He published the fourth edition of *Vegetable Growing in New Zealand* in 1936, *Whitcombe's Complete New Zealand Gardener* in 1943 and *The Star Guide to New Zealand Gardening* in 1968 (republished

⁷⁵² *The Press*, 3 February 1932; *A Garden Century 1863-1963*, p. 47

as *Brett's Guide to New Zealand Gardening* the following year). He became a television gardener in 1966 with a weekly programme, 'Gardening Quarter' and, following his retirement, published a regular column in the *New Zealand Herald*.⁷⁵³

Brendon P. Mansfield 1945-1948⁷⁵⁴

As recorded in *A Garden Century 1863-1963*, Brendon Mansfield trained at what was then the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. After gaining experience in nurseries, he immigrated to New Zealand and was employed as Nursery Foreman for J. Anderson and Sons, Napier, before securing the position of Nursery Manager at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens.

In 1933 he replaced James McPherson as Superintendent of Public Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Endowments, Invercargill City Council. He held this position until 1945 when he once again replaced James McPherson, this time as Curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. The following year, the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park were placed under the control of the Christchurch City Council and Mansfield's position was restructured to that of Assistant Director Parks and Reserves.

Mansfield died in tragic circumstances, asphyxiated due to the inhalation of hydrocyanic gas, while fumigating one of the propagation houses.

Morris John Barnett 1946-1955

Morris Barnett served his apprenticeship at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens followed by an additional two years of study at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. On his return to New Zealand in 1914 he was employed by Robert Heaton Rhodes (Jnr), as Head Gardener on the Blue Cliffs Station, South Canterbury.

During the first World War he served with the N.Z.E.F. and was invalided home in 1917. The following year he was appointed foreman of glass houses and rock gardens at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens. In 1924 he took charge of the public gardens and parks of the Oamaru Borough Council and, four years later, was appointed Superintendent of Christchurch City Council's Parks and Reserves.



Figure 4.6. Morris Barnett

Prior to his retirement in 1955, he developed the Murray-Aynsley Lawn which included the formation of a dedicated Primula Garden. Under his curatorship a Fern House was built and planted and, through his successful representation to Council, a loan of £20,000 was secured for new glasshouses, a library and offices for the staff.

Barnett wrote and presented a number of conference papers focussing on Christchurch's reserves, including Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.⁷⁵⁵ He was also interested in the role of horticulture

⁷⁵³ Parkinson, Brian. 'McPherson, James Anderson 1900 – 1980', *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, updated 22 June 2007. URL: <http://www.dnz.govt.nz/> Accessed November 2010

⁷⁵⁴ *A Garden Century 1863-1963*, p. 48

⁷⁵⁵ 'History & Development of Parks and Reserves, Christchurch', New Zealand Park Superintendent's Conference 1938; 'History of Parks, Gardens and Reserves under the control of the Christchurch City Council', January 1952

in post-war rehabilitation and presented a paper on this in 1946.⁷⁵⁶ The same year he was invited to give the Banks Lecture.⁷⁵⁷ Following his retirement he was called upon to give specialist advice to Council concerning the proposed Rolleston Avenue tree felling and replanting programme.⁷⁵⁸

Huia Gilpin 1955-1979⁷⁵⁹

Huia Gilpin began his horticultural career with the commercial nursery firm of W. E. Edginton and Co. Nurserymen in Riccarton, where he trained first as an apprentice. On completion of his apprenticeship he worked for the firm for a year as a journeyman. During this time he attended Christchurch Technical College evening classes for six years and also took a correspondence course in horticulture from Dunedin. On leaving Edginton and Co. he worked alongside his father for T.J. Edmonds Ltd in the grounds of the Edmonds' Factory as second gardener.



Figure 4.7. Huia Gilpin

During the war he carried on his horticultural pursuits by taking charge of vegetable production, groundsman's duties and flying field maintenance for the RNZAF. After he was demobilized, he returned to T. J. Edmonds then, in 1945, joined the Dunedin City Council Reserves Department where he was in charge of the propagating department.

In 1947 he was appointed to the position of Grounds Superintendent for the North Canterbury Hospital Board where he developed the grounds of the Cashmere Sanatorium. Two years later he was appointed Assistant Director of Botanic Gardens, Parks and Reserves in Christchurch. In 1955 Gilpin became the Botanic Gardens' first Christchurch-born Director.

He was the first person in New Zealand to pass the National Diploma in Horticulture by examination in 1939, and later studied landscape architecture at Canterbury College School of Art. He obtained expert practical tuition in landscape architecture from Edgar Taylor, when Taylor was employed as Landscape Architect by the City Council.

During his term, a library and offices for the staff were completed, water reticulation completely renewed and the stone and wrought iron fence along Rolleston Avenue frontage was constructed to commemorate the centenary of the Botanic Gardens.

⁷⁵⁶ 'Means whereby a Reserves Department can assist in the war effort : Horticulture and Post-War Rehabilitation', a paper delivered at the New Zealand Park Superintendents' Conference, 1946

⁷⁵⁷ 'The History and Development of Tree Planting in Canterbury'. Banks Lecture, delivered at Timaru on February 7, 1946

⁷⁵⁸ Rolleston Avenue Trees, Report by Morris Barnett, undated, CH377 Box 53 file 22/24a, CCCA

⁷⁵⁹ Biography, Application for position of Superintendent, Nelson Parks and Reserves, 1946, Reserves files 1937-1947, Nelson City Council; *New Zealand Plants and Garden*, JRNZIH, March 1962, p. 285

Lawrence (Lawrie) James Metcalf 1955-1977⁷⁶⁰

Lawrie Metcalf received his horticultural training while in Christchurch working at Nairns' Nursery and the Christchurch City Council Parks and Reserves Department. He then spent some time working at Duncan and Davies Nursery in New Plymouth before travelling to Australia, where he was employed at the Melbourne, and later the Adelaide Botanic Gardens until he moved to England. Prior to his return to New Zealand in 1955 he was employed in a number of specialist nurseries including Ingwersen's Hardy Plant Nursery in Sussex and Hillier's Tree and Shrub Nursery, and was Head Gardener for rosarian Constance Spry, for two years.

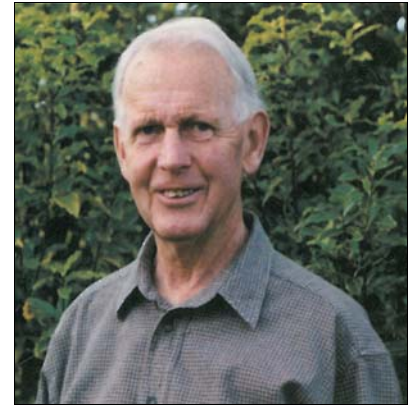


Figure 4.8. Lawrie Metcalf

Metcalf was appointed to the position of Assistant Curator of the Botanic Gardens in 1955, and in 1968 was appointed Assistant Director. Between 1955 and 1977 he oversaw the developments initiated by Morris Barnett and undertook and supervised new projects. These included the diorama and display in Garrick House, the construction of the Alpine House and eight new glasshouses, and the reconstruction of the Cockayne Memorial Garden, among other projects. In 1977 he relocated to Invercargill to take up the position of Director of Parks and Recreation with the Invercargill City Council, before retiring in 1992.

For many years he wrote a column entitled "Notes from the Christchurch Botanic Gardens" for the RNZIH quarterly publication. He is the author of *The Cultivation of New Zealand Shrubs* (1972) and, at last count, seven other titles. He is described as one of New Zealand's most well known and authoritative authors of books about New Zealand plants. Metcalf served on the National Executive of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and was Convenor of the Nomenclature Committee. He was the recipient of the Cockayne Gold Medal, was awarded the first Tannock Memorial Prize and, in 1995, was awarded the prestigious Gold Veitch Memorial Medal for services to horticulture. More recently he was awarded the Loder Cup and was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to horticulture in the New Year Honours 2010.

Alan Jolliffe 1979-1982⁷⁶¹

Alan began his training in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens as a horticultural apprentice and gained a Dip. PRA, Parks and Recreation Management from Lincoln University in 1975. He subsequently received a Council scholarship and a J. R. Templin scholarship to study in the United States, where he graduated with a Master of Science in Parks and Recreation from Indiana University, Bloomington.

He was appointed to the position of Curator, Christchurch Botanic Gardens in 1977. He held this position until 1982, when he took up the role as Director of Parks and Recreation, Nelson City Council, before being appointed Divisional Manager, Parks and Recreation at Lower Hutt



Figure 4.9. Alan Jolliffe

⁷⁶⁰ *Annual Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture* 1989, Vol. 16, pp. 43-44; *New Zealand Garden Journal*, 2006, Vol. 9 (2), pp. 24- 25

⁷⁶¹ On-line profile; *Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Newsletter*, Summer 2008/2009 No. 75, p. 6

City Council in 1986. Following this he held a number of roles within the Historic Places Trust before taking up a position with the University of Canterbury in 2008.

Warwick Scadden 1983-2003

In 1966, aged 22 Warwick Scadden was awarded the Winston Churchill Fellowship which enabled him to study parks and recreation administration at Reading College, England.⁷⁶² Prior to this he was employed by the Christchurch City Council Reserves Department.

He was appointed Curator in 1982 and, following the rationalisation of the Botanic Gardens Management Structure, became the Horticultural Operations Team Leader in the 1990s. He held this position until 2003. He was a foundation member of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

Dr David Roger Given 2003-2005⁷⁶³

After studying New Zealand mountain daisies (*Celmisia*) for his PhD, David Given joined the Botany Division, DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) in 1965 as a plant taxonomist, eventually becoming the Keeper of the Herbarium, between 1974 and 1987. He also had a passion for ferns and became one of New Zealand's leading fern authorities. During his term as Herbarium Keeper, Given was one of the instigators of the New Zealand National Herbarium Network.

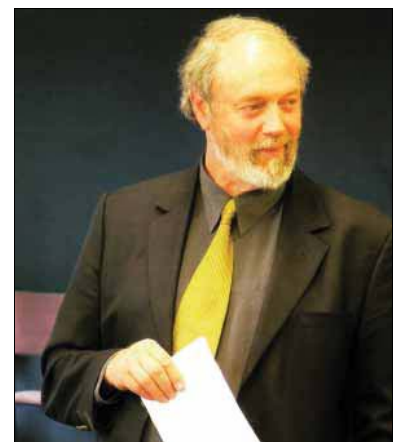


Figure 4.10. Dr David Given

In 1973-1974, he gained a Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the Canadian National Research Council which took him to Ottawa, to research the outliers of isolated arctic-alpine plants around Lake Superior. On his return to the DSIR, Lincoln, he prepared the paper 'Conservation of rare and threatened plant taxa in New Zealand: Some principles.' Some six years later he published his first book *Rare and Endangered Plants of New Zealand*, which was followed by the *New Zealand Red Data Book*, co-authored with Gordon Williams.

His close association with Lincoln University followed a career of nearly 30 years as a research scientist with the DSIR. As a part-time lecturer at Lincoln University from the 1990s into the 2000s he taught a range of subjects including landscape ecology, conservation biology, ethnobotany and nature conservation. In addition to lecturing, he was Manager of the Centre for Nature Conservation, now the Isaac Centre. In 2000 he was appointed an Associate Professor and, in 2003, Given took up the position of Curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, a role he held until his death in 2005.

During his last year in office he wrote the Issues and Actions Plan section of the draft Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan, and was a key member of the team responsible for preparing the draft Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan and, in particular, contributed the vision and content specifically relating to the Botanic Gardens.

⁷⁶² *The Star*, 23 December 1966, Clippings file, CBGA

⁷⁶³ Obituary *New Zealand Garden Journal*, 2006, Vol. 9(1), p. 19; A Tribute to David Given – 1943-2005, written on 1st December 2005, <http://www.bgci.org/worldwide/news/0137/>; Lincoln University Archive, <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/News--Events/News/Archive/2005/Death-of-Dr-David-Given/>

In 1986 he was invited to give the Banks Memorial Lecture.⁷⁶⁴ In 1995 he was awarded the Loder Cup by the Minister of Conservation for services to plant conservation and, in 2005, was awarded the New Zealand Ecological Society's celebrated Te Tohu Taiao Award for Ecological Excellence.

Jeremy Hawker 2003 to present

Jeremy Hawker served his apprenticeship at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens, and completed a National Diploma of Horticulture in Nursery Management while managing a wholesale nursery and horticulture training facility in Dunedin.

Following this, he took up a position as Horticultural Officer for the Waitaki District Council, a role which also included responsibility for the Oamaru Public Gardens. His next position was Contract Supervisor for Christchurch City Council's city parks before being appointed Project Leader within the Greenspace Unit of Christchurch City Council. In this role he was responsible for developing parks and park assets. He is currently Team Leader, Garden and Heritage Parks (and formerly the Botanical Services Operations Manager for the Christchurch City Council) and is responsible for the management of Christchurch's Botanic Garden, Hagley Park, Mona Vale, the city's other garden and heritage parks and the city nurseries.

Jeremy has been involved from the outset of the BGANZ (Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand) and sits on the New Zealand executive, as well as on the executive of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

Dr John Clemens 2009 to present

John Clemens received his doctorate in organometallic chemistry from Bristol University and followed this with post-doctorial study in Switzerland. He then attended Wye College in Kent, (part of the University of London), undertaking a Masters degree in Landscape Ecology.

Soon after graduating he was offered a newly-created position teaching environmental horticulture at the University of Sydney. Initially a one-year contract this expanded to twelve years.



Figure 4.11. Dr John Clemens

Following this, Clemens took up a position as Director of the Nursery Research Centre at Massey University, where he was involved in the development of plants for the nursery and cut flower industry. Later he developed a research programme for Crop & Food Research in New Zealand ornamental plants, including pohutukawa and kowhai.

In 2006 he returned to study and completed Lincoln University's Master of Landscape Architecture programme. He then worked for two years with Peter Rough Landscape Architects, Christchurch, undertaking landscape assessment projects. In 2009 he took up the Curator's position at the Botanic Gardens.⁷⁶⁵ At this time Clemens was described as having a unique background in plant research, education and landscape architecture

⁷⁶⁴ 'Botanic gardens and conservation: the road from Las Palmas', 1986 Banks Memorial Lecture. *Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, Annual Journal 14*, pp. 3-9

⁷⁶⁵ Interview, D. Madgin / J. Clemens, *Friends of the Botanic Gardens Newsletter 78*, Spring 2009

4.3 Other associated Gardens' and Council staff

Walter Boa Brockie

Horticulturalist

Walter Brockie was born in Scotland in 1897 and, from the age of 14, trained as a gardener on the Haining Estate belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch. Three years later he joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers and saw service in Gallipoli and the Sinai, and was wounded at the Battle of Gaza. He was taken prisoner and worked on the construction of the Berlin-Baghdad railway between 1917-1918. He returned to Haining following his release and completed his apprenticeship before immigrating to New Zealand in 1921.

After arriving in Dunedin he held a number of positions, including a gardening position at Bushy Park, before moving to Christchurch in 1928. There he worked briefly as gardener for Robert McDougall before joining the staff of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in 1929. In 1930 he took charge of the Native Plant Section. He constructed the Cockayne Memorial, and was responsible for its design and the collection of mountain plants which he obtained from many trips into the Southern Alps. He was also responsible for directing construction of the Rock Garden for exotic mountain plants and acted as Curator from 1942-1944.

In 1946 he spent six months with a meteorological party studying botany on Campbell Island. He collecting many live plants as well as herbarium specimens, some of which were deposited in the National (Dominion) Museum's WELT⁷⁶⁶, the private collection of Harry Talbot, the Botany Division of the DSIR and the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Brockie was appointed Curator of the Otari Open Air Native Plant Museum in Wellington in June 1947, a position he held until he retired in May 1962. Five years after his retirement he was asked to plan and supervise the building of the large native rock garden at Pollard Park, Blenheim.

Brockie gained the National Diploma of Horticulture (N.Z.) in December 1929 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture on 25 November 1947. He was awarded the Loder Cup in 1945. For a period he was Secretary and Botanist of the Board of Trustees of Riccarton Bush, Christchurch, and a representative of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand on that Board. It was at his suggestion that Riccarton House and the adjoining parkland was purchased by the local councils, thereby ensuring the future of this unique bush remnant. He was a member of the Royal Society of New Zealand and of the Wellington Botanical Society. He died aged 75.⁷⁶⁷

John O. Taylor

Horticulturalist

John Taylor commenced training at Christchurch Botanic Gardens, followed by naval service in Great Britain (1944-45), and a studentship at Kew Gardens. Further study continued in the USA at Arnold Arboretum (Harvard), New York Botanical Garden and the Botanical Garden of the University of California, Berkeley. He gained additional experience with the Brighton Parks Department, England.

⁷⁶⁶ New Zealand's oldest public herbarium housed at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

⁷⁶⁷ Simpson, M. J. A. (1972) 'Walter Boa Brockie, N.D.H.(N.Z.), F.R.I.H.(N.Z.) 1897-1972', *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, Volume 12, Issue 1, pp. 149-156

On his return to Christchurch in 1950 he was employed as Assistant Curator of the Botanic Gardens, but left in 1954 to start his own business,⁷⁶⁸ a wholesale nursery which he operated for 17 years. In 1972 he was appointed to the role of Lecturer, Nursery Management and Ornamental Horticulture at Lincoln University,⁷⁶⁹ before being appointed as Senior Lecturer in Park and Recreation, Administration, Lincoln University.⁷⁷⁰

Taylor retired in 1986 but remained committed to training in horticulture and served as the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture President.⁷⁷¹

Gordon M. Gee

Artist

Gordon Gee was employed at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens from 1956 to 1974. Prior to this he worked as a commercial artist in Christchurch. During his time as a Gardens' staff member he prepared many thousands of labels for plants throughout the conservatories and grounds of the Botanic Gardens, together with descriptive signs depicting plants of special seasonal importance.

His skill as an artist was recognised and he was encouraged to produce drawings and paintings of specimens in the Gardens. He was responsible for painting the diorama depicting the desert landscapes from Africa to the Americas which can still be seen on the walls of Garrick House where the Gardens' cactus collection is displayed. Gee's illustrations were used in Lawrence Metcalf's *Cultivation of New Zealand Trees and Shrubs*, published in 1972.⁷⁷²

Edgar Taylor

Horticulturalist, Landscape Architect

Edgar Taylor was born in London, England, in 1886, and was the son of Ambrose Lloyd Taylor, a surveyor and landscape gardener. Ambrose Taylor was employed as Head Gardener at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in 1889 (refer biography) and, from an early age, Edgar helped his father in the Gardens.

Circa 1905, Taylor was employed at the Hanmer Springs Nursery and Plantation, and in 1906 he began work for A. W. Buxton Limited, a firm of nurserymen and landscape gardeners. During this time he studied part-time at the Canterbury College School of Art, and also obtained a diploma in landscape design from the Canterbury Society of Arts in 1912. Initially employed as Buxton's landscape draughtsman, Taylor moved into landscape design, preparing plans in conjunction with the firm's founder and principal shareholder, Alfred Buxton.

In 1926 A. W. Buxton Limited went into liquidation and, from then until 1935, Taylor worked as an independent landscape designer. He completed the National Diploma in Horticulture in 1927, and in 1933, began his first factory garden for the Sanitarium Health Food Company in Papanui, Christchurch.

⁷⁶⁸ Chairman's Report to the Abattoir and Reserves Committee, 22 March 1954, CH380, C/99, CCCA

⁷⁶⁹ Christchurch Civic Trust: Minutes: Reports & Newspapers clippings. Box 3. Clippings 1964-1972, MBL

⁷⁷⁰ Challenger, S. (1972) (Ed) *Playgrounds in the Community: A Report of the proceedings of a seminar on the provision, design, and utilisation of playgrounds*, p. 6

⁷⁷¹ *New Zealand Garden Journal*, 2003, Vol.6 (1) 7, p. 7

⁷⁷² http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Art/People/G/Gee_Gordon/ Accessed July 2011

In 1942 he was employed by Christchurch City Council as its first City Landscape Architect and was responsible for laying out a large number of grounds, parks and reserves. The most prominent of these included the banks of the Avon River, the New Brighton and Sumner foreshores, the Christchurch International Airport grounds, Ruru Lawn Cemetery, and the Woolston, St Albans, English, Barnett, Edgar MacIntosh, Avebury, Addington, Plynlimon, Spreydon, St James and St Leonard's parks. He also designed the Ballantyne's Memorial Garden at Ruru Lawn Cemetery, the floral clock in Victoria Square, and assisted Heathcote Helmore with the integration of the landscape around the Eveleyn Couzins Memorial Gateway in the Botanic Gardens. One of his final tasks with the Council was to design the Rolleston Avenue boundary wall, for which he reportedly selected every stone.

Taylor retired at the end of 1965 aged 79, but continued to give his services to the Canterbury Horticultural Society as a judge of street and flower competitions. He died in 1979 in his 93rd year.⁷⁷³

4.4 Other groups/individuals

Friends of the Botanic Gardens

The Society known as the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens was formed in November 1989 to "to promote, support and protect the Christchurch Botanic Gardens." One year prior a meeting had been held to explore the feasibility of, and interest in, establishing a 'Friends of the Gardens Society'. Organisations represented included the Canterbury Horticultural Society, Christchurch Beautifying Association, Botany Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Horticulture of Lincoln University, New Zealand Nurserymen's Association, Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, New Zealand Institute of Park and Recreation Administration and the Canterbury Botanical Society.

The Society was officially registered as an incorporated body in 1989 and became the Friends of the Gardens Incorporated. Its objectives are:

- To promote, support and protect the Gardens for the purpose for which they are established
- To promote and support activities consistent with the purpose of the Gardens

The Friends of the Gardens conduct tours, lectures and meetings for people interested in the Gardens. Another of the Friends' major activities is fund raising to supplement the resources made available by the Council. The Friends have the use of a glasshouse in the Botanic Gardens where members prepare plants for Friends' funds and for their own gardens.⁷⁷⁴

⁷⁷³ Rupert Tipples. 'Taylor, Edgar - Biography', from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 1-Sep-10, URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/3t8/1>

⁷⁷⁴ <http://www.friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz/pages/about-us.html> Accessed October 2011; *Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2007*, p. 11

4.5 Curators of the Acclimatisation Society Gardens

A. M. Johnson- 1864 to 1875

Johnson was the first Acclimatisation Society's Curator and he worked in the role until 1875 when he was dismissed by the Society.⁷⁷⁵ He went on to establish his own private fish farm, aquarium and small Angora stud at Opawa which he initially called 'Troutdale Farm'.⁷⁷⁶ His obituary records *"Johnson, under the auspices of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society, hatched out the first trout introduced into the Dominion, and also, under the same aegis, introduced a number of aquatic plants suitable for fish feed, and the water lilies, which are such a sight at the picnic grounds he had appropriately christened 'The fishponds at Opawa' ... He was a pioneer in acclimatisation work, especially as regards fish culture. He was Curator of the Acclimatisation ponds, and did much to propagate the trout which are now such an asset to the Dominion. Thirty years ago he acquired the property on the east side of the Heathcote, and made the pretty grounds a great picnic resort. He especially devoted himself to the breeding of fish, and he built a large brick aquarium. He also obtained some tuatara lizards, and these he tended with the greatest care."*⁷⁷⁷

John Beck - 1875 to 1877

Beck was previously employed as the Curator of the Dunedin Acclimatisation Society.

Arthur von Pullnitz- 1877

Arthur was employed as Curator in June 1877 for approximately five months. In November 1877 he was dismissed by the Society, subsequently arrested and unsuccessfully tried for larceny as a servant of the Acclimatisation Society and embezzlement.

George Starkiss- 1880 to 1896

Prior to his appointment as Curator Starkiss was Assistant Curator (1870-1880). He was appointed to act in the role of Curator following Mr von Pullnitz dismissal until 1880 when he was officially confirmed in the position. He retired in 1896. Starkiss was described as *"a thorough master of the art of pisciculture and grudged neither time nor trouble in the service of the public. A man of extraordinary industry and exceptional integrity and won the highest esteem of the members and officials of the Acclimatisation Society."*⁷⁷⁸

W R Thornhill -1897 to 1902

J. H. Raine -1902 to June 1904

Chas Rides - August 1904 to 1913

During his time as Curator Rides was noted to have been greatly assisted in the role by his father Mr C. D. Rides and his mother, both of whom were described as *"well-known for their enthusiasm in flower culture."*⁷⁷⁹

⁷⁷⁵ Druett, J. (1983) *Exotic Intruders*, p. 133; *The Press*, 11 September 1875, p. 2; *The Press*, 19 August 1878, p. 2

⁷⁷⁶ *The Press*, 7 February 1885, p. 3; *The Star*, 15 February 1897, p. 4

⁷⁷⁷ Obituary, *The Press*, 20 March 1916, p. 3

⁷⁷⁸ Obituary, *The Star*, 25 August 1899, p. 3

⁷⁷⁹ *The Press*, 1 April 1905, p. 11

David Hope 1913 to ?

David Hope was still employed as Curator when the Acclimatisation Society relocated to Greenpark in 1930.⁷⁸⁰

Officials of the Acclimatisation Society

Over the sixty-six years the Society operated within the area now occupied by the Woodland a number of the city's most prominent businessmen and politicians held positions on the committee. The list included Sir J. Cracroft Wilson, the Hon, J. T. Peacock, Hon C. C. Bowen, Dr Julius von Haast, George Gould, Hugh Murray-Aynsley, W.H. Wyn Williams, R. W. Fereday, Edward Jollie and the architect Samuel C. Farr.

Farr was a particular stalwart of the Committee and in a special meeting of the Society in 1890 it was noted that he had been Honorary Secretary for 22 years and for 17 of these had held office without pay. In addition he had conveyed all trout distributed in the rivers of Canterbury at his own expense.



Figure 4.13. Acclimatisation Society's fish hatchery and pond
Source: Historical photograph collection, Photograph 78c, CBGPA

⁷⁸⁰ *Annual Report of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society 1930*, AEQH 21352 CH1002 Box 37/d, ANZ

Section 5
BIBLIOGRAPHY
HAGLEY PARK AND THE
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