

Our Community Plan Submission - Received by Email

Name:	Neil O'Brien [obrien.nj@xtra.co.nz]
CC:	
Sent:	Wed 5/05/2004 15:29
Your Submission:	<p>My name is Neil J O'Brien, 1/31 Main Road Redcliffs Christchurch 8008 Phone 384 6090 E-mail obrien.nj@xtra.co.nz</p> <p>Also include, Helen Constable, 118 Huntsbury Ave, St.Martins, Phone 980 9358 e-mail hrcon@paradise.net.nz</p> <p>Subject Christchurch Botanic Gardens. We endorse the comments made on P81, Vol 2, Performance Measures as a broad statement.</p> <p>We would in particular like the scientific aspects of any plan to be further enhanced and emphasised to include local and Canterbury native plants. eg a display of those plants typical of the Plains, Banks Peninsula and major local wetlands.</p> <p>There could also be a display of succulents, especially those now naturalised around the City. (Port Hills.)</p> <p>Aging trees now considered a hazard, be removed on the advised of competent Gardens staff. eg. Several common trees such as <i>Fraxinus excelsus</i> are found in the Gardens. Only one specimen to remain, the rest to give way to more interesting species.</p> <p>Greater emphasis be given to planting trees from within the Pacific Basin rather than European species as at present.</p> <p>We would like to see a much improved display of our Alpine plants along with the appropriate interpretation panels. This is long overdue.</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Present staff are loyal and dedicated but cannot realistically attend to all that needs to be done. More staff, both trained and to be trained are urgently needed. Greater use of volunteer or part time staff would release skilled staff to get on with what is important.</p> <p>Staff should be given greater opportunities to further their education by attending training courses ie technical or other tertiary institutions, and to travel to conferences here and overseas.</p> <p>We strongly urge, and would resist any attempts, to amalgamate the Gardens with any other institution whatsoever, and that no further land be removed from the Gardens control.</p> <p>We are in favour of creating outliers of the Gardens, such as Victoria Park, where an arboretum for growing trees and shrubs from drier regions could be established. This is done in Sydney, Australia.</p> <p>Something must be done to enhance security. Too much damage is being done mostly after hours, by vandals. Staff members, we know, are visibly upset by the this wanton destruction of plants and other damage to their workplace.</p>

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

As active members of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, we spend a fair amount of time there and are conscientious of its needs. While guiding local people and many overseas visitors, I (Neil), am well aware of how others see what a fine asset we have in our Gardens. The number of sincere and complimentary comments from these people is most gratifying.

Neil O'Brien and Helen Constable