

FRIENDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

SUBMISSION TO THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
ON THE DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN 2006 - 2016

The Committee of the Society of the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens has approved this Submission which is made on behalf of the Society WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE WISHES TO SPEAK AT THE HEARINGS
PANEL IN SUPPORT OF THE SUBMISSION

Submission Presented By: DAVID MOYLE

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3 May 2006

REASONS FOR SUBMISSION

1. The Society known as the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens (the "Friends") was founded in 1989, one of its objectives being to "promote, support and protect the Christchurch Botanic Gardens (the "Gardens"). This submission is made on behalf of the 280 Christchurch based members of the Friends.
2. The Gardens attract more than 1.2 million people each year and surveys have shown that about two thirds of all tourists staying in Christchurch visit the Gardens. The Gardens are an integral part of the Cultural Precinct and are a fundamental icon which must be preserved and developed to ensure that Christchurch retains its position as New Zealand's "Garden City"

COMMENTS ON DRAFT SUMMARY PLAN

Tree Renewal: Pages 4 & 14.

3. Many of the trees within the city environs, particularly those planted in the early days of provincial settlement, have aged to the point of becoming hazards to life and property. The Friends accordingly support the allocation of \$17.2 million capital expenditure for tree renewal. Because many of the early planted trees lie within the bounds of Hagley Park and the Gardens the Friends recommend that a substantial part of the planned funding be allocated to those areas to replace, where necessary, aged tree stocks and to enhance existing resources.

Botanic Gardens Project : Pages 4 & 14.

4. The Friends whole-heartedly endorse the introductory comment on Page 14 that we want "access to open spaces, parks and recreation areas, attractive city landscapes, protection of our natural resources and scenic values". Implementation of the projects, as proposed in this Section will enhance the well being of present and future residents by maintaining parks and reserves and providing a variety of recreational opportunities and facilities for their use and enjoyment.

5. As one of the major city parks the Gardens play a number of differing roles in the life of the city. These roles include:

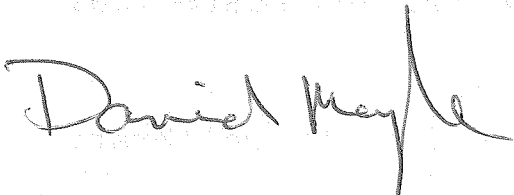
- Providing a central easily accessible recreational and leisure space for enjoyment and use by everybody.
- Promoting, as a key icon, the image of Christchurch as the premier "Garden City".
- Conserving native and exotic plant collections.
- Offering educational tours and information for all age groups about plants and their history.
- Presenting NZ native flora in a way that can be easily accessed and appreciated.
- Protecting and enhancing our environmental diversity.
- Providing a carbon "sink" resource to help improve air quality in the central city.
- Making available through a dedicated library and database specialised information about plants for the education of present citizens and future generations.
- Placing the Gardens in the worldwide network for plant conservation, mutual education and biodiversity.
- Maintaining important scientific and historical assets.
- Undertaking botanical research
- Looking forward and preparing for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Gardens in Year 2013.

6. Without particulars of the Strategic Master Plan for the Gardens or information on the range of specific items included in the sum of \$11.1 Million allocated in the Draft Plan as a Discretionary Project for the Gardens the Friends assume that the bulk of the allocated funds is for building purposes. The present buildings do not meet acceptable modern requirements and seriously inhibit the Gardens in meeting the roles listed above. Staff and visitors are unable to gain ready access to needed resources of information or education. There is also an essential requirement to provide suitable space to display collections and for climate controlled environments to house the valuable herbarium and the specialised library. The buildings need to house important scientific and historical assets and provide more acceptable staff working facilities.

7. Income Generation According to advice given to the Friends, international botanic gardens generate about 25% of their income from external sources such as visitor centre, bookshop, research, concessions, education etc compared with a much lesser percentage by the Christchurch Gardens. Provision of buildings and facilities to enhance income generating activities are also highly desirable.

Recommendations.

8. The Friends believe it is essential to preserve the heritage established through the foresight of our forebears and to develop the Gardens in accordance with the ideals propounded by the late Curator David Given. Accordingly the Friends strongly support the proposed projects for capital expenditure amounting to \$17.2 Million on Tree Renewal and \$11.1 million on the Botanic Gardens.



David Moyle,
3 May 2006.