

Summary submission form

Instructions

You may send us your submission...

Please read before completing your submission

It will help us process your submission if you clearly state the issue you want the Council to consider, what specific action you think the Council should take, and why that should be done.

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. (If that is the case, please tick the box). The hearings will be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006. Generally, 10 minutes are allocated for hearing each submission, including time for questions.

It will help us if your submission also refers to the page of either the full version or the summary version.

Please note: we are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to Councillors and to the public. This includes the name and address of the submitter. All submissions will be published on the Council's website from 10 May 2006.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

By mail

Please mail your submission (no stamp is required) to:

Freeport 178
Our Community Plan
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8003

By email

Please email your submission to:
ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz
Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

On the internet

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's web site at:
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>
Please follow all the instructions on the web site.

Please remember to indicate if you wish to present your submission in person at one of the hearings.

Please ensure your submission arrives no later than Friday 5 May 2006.

Your submission

You may use this form for your submission on the draft Our Community Plan if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please include your name, address and contact telephone number with your submission.

Tick one I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered OR I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006

Are you completing this submission: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent?

My submission refers to: Full version Page No. Summary version Page No.

Do you also want to respond to: Development Contributions Aquatic Facilities Other

Contact Name Diana Madgin

Organisation name (if applicable) _____

Contact Address 373 River Road
Christchurch 1

Phone No. (day) 385-3559 Phone No. (evening) same

Email (if applicable) new25@ext.canterbury.ac.nz

Signature DM Madgin Date 5 May 2006



Canterbury Garden Excursions

373 River Road
Christchurch 1
5 May 2006-05-05

SUBMISSION ON "OUR COMMUNITY PLAN" from Diana Madgin
Re: Botanic Gardens (draft summary p. 14)

Since this city's beginnings in 1850, provision was made in its planning for a 500-acre green space right in its heart, in size second only to New York City's Central Park but even more accessible. When the city was just a 13-year-old muddy-tracked, swampy settlement, the first tree was planted in what was to become, a century later, one of the top ten botanic gardens in the world.

Botanic gardens with rich patronage, particularly in the Americas, have been able to focus, early in their development, on the educative function of a botanic garden, with classrooms and teachers for both adults and school children. Education goes hand in hand with the scientific role of a botanic institution.

The short but highly significant role played by Dr David Given—in the last two years prior to his untimely death—placed the Christchurch Botanic gardens in the world-wide network for plant conservation, education and bio-diversity. Given's name was known and respected throughout the world. He knew better than anyone else in the city that botanic gardens are key institutions in the quest to save the planet. Global warming is now a non-debatable and frightening fact. If we cannot stop warming at a further 2C, we lose a major percentage of the world's species—just like that.

Twenty years ago, when gardening was the number one national hobby of over 60% of New Zealanders over 30, some appeal for understanding or sustainability could be made to the great numbers of hands-in-dirt gardeners. Today, what the British call "cheque-book gardeners" have come to dominate the new gardens. Their children may not be gardeners, but we have to teach them to conserve, to protect, to understand our native flora. They have to grow up inspired to save, not destroy.

We had in Dr Given a world-class scientist, who knew and profoundly understood these issues and had plans for the Botanic Gardens that went forward with these big issues to the fore.

It is absolutely imperative to get world-class leadership for our botanic gardens. This is not a luxury, as those who have no understanding of botany as it relates to planet survival tend to think. Nor is this simply a pretty municipal garden, as is most people's understanding of botanic gardens, and therefore deserving a "just-a-garden" or "why-waste-taxpayers'-money" cursory nod.

New Zealand has been so richly endowed with green space, garden space, fruit and vegetables, throughout history that "garden" has become almost invisible, a taken-for-granted in our landscape and our culture. Christchurch needs to grasp and highlight the Botanic Gardens as the centre of this Garden City. The most visited, most loved, most botanically progressive institution in our city, in our history even, requires highly qualified leadership to raise its profile both locally and internationally. Anything less wastes one of our richest civic resources.

Dm Madgin