



7. RECOGNITION OF EFFORTS IN RESIDENTIAL GARDENS

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The purpose of this report is to seek an extension to the present system of awarding garden certificates.

Every year there are many garden "competitions" run by a wide range of organisations, from those on a metropolitan basis (Horticultural Society; Christchurch Beautifying Association) to those on a suburban level (eg Redwood Beautifying Association). Their emphasis is on reinforcing the image of Christchurch as the "garden city", not just of New Zealand, but of the world. Some of the competitions require formal entries; others do not. The latter schemes recognise the efforts of those who take pride in having a beautiful garden without feeling that they are actually competing. Such people are often overwhelmed to receive an award or a certificate of appreciation.

The writer represents the Board in the judging of the Christchurch Beautifying Association's street awards in the Shirley and Papanui Wards, such as the best cul-de-sac and the best long street, as well as individual gardens (both domestic and commercial) along the Main North Road. Other Board areas are involved in judging their streets or properties on major accessways (Main South Road, Memorial Avenue, etc). We do not judge or recognise any other individual properties.

Each year the Board is involved in the presentation of certificates to the owners of residential properties in our area, from "judgings" other than that just described. It appears that there are many property owners or occupiers who make an effort with their gardens such that their properties have a beautifying effect on their street, but their efforts are not recognised. There are many cases of beautification of gardens in State housing areas, where the "level" of the beautification is not in the same class as those in other areas, but is still worthy of some form of recognition to encourage continuation of the effort.

With the overlapping nature of garden "competitions" and award schemes there may be many gardens where no recognition is received. There is a clear need for the system to be rationalised to ensure that efforts of property owners/occupiers receive some form of recognition. For example, do areas such as Brooklands fall within the compass of existing schemes? The writer can recall receiving a Redwood Beautifying Association "certificate of appreciation" for our garden in Prestons Road almost 40 years ago. We were not "competitive" gardeners, and would never have entered a competition, but we were delighted to receive the small certificate. If such a scheme does not exist today, it could well be revived, perhaps with some funding from the Board, and with the certificates of appreciation being either from the Board, or jointly from the Board and the relevant beautifying association.

Recommendation: That a report be prepared by staff for the 29 March meeting, outlining the present scope of awards and the likely costs of an extension to those schemes to include several hundred gardens worthy of praise, if not of a formal award.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.