



Bush Telegraph

November 2016

From the Manager

I have been in the job for six weeks now and I would really like us to re-engage with our neighbours. Like any community, there will be things you love about us and other things that you aren't too keen on. We do want to continue to be a good neighbour so hopefully keeping you better informed may in some small way enhance that.

A number of years ago Rob Daly, then Manager of Riccarton House and Bush, started the Bush Telegraph. This updated our neighbours on what was happening. I would like to reactivate that on a quarterly basis to start with.

Well last Monday morning was a bit of a shock to us all – the earthquake brought a whole lot of old memories back. We have had the Structural Engineers through the house and we have had the all clear so that was wonderful news. The repair work has stood up well.

Shona Willis

Come for a visit...

Local. at Riccarton House

We are now open six days a week from Sunday (9am - 4pm) and Monday through to Friday (10am - 4pm) Sam is creating lovely Spring menus each day and with the Rose courtyard in full bloom, it is a beautiful place to enjoy lunch outdoors.

Contact Details: Please call the Restaurant 03 348 6190,
email: info@localatriccartonhouse.co.nz,
website: www.localatriccartonhouse.co.nz



Upcoming Events

30 November – Authors' Talk.

4 & 11 December – Ghost Tours 8.30pm – 9.30pm. Book online or by phoning 341 1018.

11 December – Riccarton St James Church Christmas Carols 6.30pm

24 December – Christmas Farmer's Market 9am - 1pm

(No market 21 December 2016, restarting Saturday 7 January 2017.)

Opening Hours

Grounds: 6am – 9pm daily

Bush: 6am – 8.30pm daily

Christmas Hours: We are open on 23 December for coffee and counter food and will then be closed for the holidays. We will reopen on Sunday 8 January 2017.

You are invited...

Wednesday 30 November, 6pm

For three and a half years from that fateful early morning 7.1M earthquake on 4 September 2010, former Riccarton House and Bush Manager Rob Dally and his wife Jan photographed the destruction and then reconstruction of Riccarton House, back to its former glory.

Following his retirement in June 2014, Jan and Rob have published a book titled "Riccarton House Earthquake Book", as a gift to the Riccarton Bush Trust.

You are invited to hear the inside story of the despair and repair, discussing images from the book on a big screen.

Joanna Urwin, an award-winning author and writer, will present her book "Riccarton and the Deans Family". This beautifully illustrated book brings to life the Deans story and also encapsulates the natural and social history of Canterbury.

This is a not to be missed opportunity for both heritage buffs and lay people. Signed copies of both books will be available on the night.

A gold coin donation to the ongoing upkeep of this pioneer homestead would be appreciated.

A cash bar will be available from 5.30pm.

What's happening in the grounds?

We are lowering the large Spanish Fir which was planted in 1894. This will return it to its conical shape and reduce the chance of falling branches

The Alaskan False Cypress is in poor health and has a fungal infection. The tree has previously had the top 5m removed but this has not halted the spread of the disease and it appears to be spreading to the nearby Lawson's Cypress. It is proposed that the tree be removed, and the stump ground and removed from the site.

We have recently braced the large horse chestnut by the Kahu Road bridge and also carried out maintenance pruning to some of the larger oaks.

The grounds are looking spectacular thanks to our Ranger, Gavin, and Gardener, Alan. We have recently put in some large pots in front of the house to provide colour throughout the summer.

Bush Tours - If you have a group of four or more we can arrange a guided tour through the bush.

Contacts

Manager: Shona Willis, 341 1018 or 0275440462

Ranger: Gavin Ruckledge, 0211332280

Visitor Guide: Antonia Allison, 0274430067

What's happening in the House?

Daily Tours

At 2pm we run hour-long tours six days a week from Sunday to Friday. Note that for each paying adult a local resident can have a tour for free – just remember to bring some ID.

Tour prices: Adults \$18.00, Seniors \$15.00, Students, \$12.00, children \$5.00, under-5 free.

We also run private tours by prior arrangement.

We could use your support

We get to speak to quite a few of our neighbours and the interest you show in the grounds and the house is wonderful. It really does feel as though we are all part of the same community. A number of you have offered support and we would be really keen to take you up on it. At the moment we are looking at getting a pool of volunteers who can help us with maintaining our needlework. Often there is crochet or needlework that needs careful washing and/or a keen eye and steady hand to breathe life back into it. This would be on a very irregular basis but if you have time and are willing to help please give me a call.

