



# Bush Telegraph

June 2017

## *Update From Shona*

Following Charles Deans' retirement after many years as Chairman, Bob Shearing has been appointed as the Trust's new Chairman. Over the last 100 years the Board has only had four chairmen. Pippa Ensor (6th Generation Deans) has been appointed to the Board as a Deans Family representative.

We have been doing quite a bit of general maintenance inside the house and have been lucky enough to get Kevin Whitelaw to help us out. Kevin did most of the maintenance and building work in earlier years and we managed to persuade him to come back. He has fixed floorboards and doorknobs, tables and windows and has made such a difference.

We have recently installed a new counter in the bush and on average we have around 6000 people walking through the bush each month. It is great to see so many people enjoying it.

We do want to be good neighbours and we would like our neighbours to be the same. If you have any issues with our trees, please give me a call or come and see me. Please do not attempt to prune any trees or plants within the boundaries of Riccarton House.

Shona Willis, Manager

## *What's happening in the grounds?*

The Trust's Ranger, a qualified Arborist, has developed a Combined Landscape Development/Concept Plan for the House grounds. The plan includes an inventory of the major trees/shrubs, physical properties of the heritage and significant trees, including their health, and a framework to record the information. A tree maintenance record is included, along with a tree succession plan, and future grounds projects.

This has been a long-awaited project that brings together records and information from a number of sources and enables us to better manage this very special place. We have been carrying out a similar project to determine the health, location and height of native trees within the Bush.

Currently we have 10 trees that have a life of less than 10 years and need to be replaced. A number of factors including aspect, location to existing trees and proximity to boundaries are always considered prior to determining the best location to plant any succession or new trees.

The *Escalonia* hedge, which was planted in the 1990s, was struggling so we have recently replaced it with an English Beech hedge. This species is better suited to the environment and will thrive.

It's a busy time of the year to get the grounds tidy and settled for winter.

## ***What's happening in the House?***

### **Daily 2pm Tours**

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.

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

### **Saturday Tours**

A number of visitors to the market have told us they would like to have Saturday tours. These 30-minute long tours have now started and run on the half hour from 10am - 12.30pm. At a cost of \$8.00 an adult and free for children 12 years and under, it is well worth a visit.

We also run private tours by prior arrangement.

## ***Riccarton Bush Kilmarnock Residents Association***

Riccarton House is again hosting the AGM of the Association on Sunday 25 June at 10am. All members of the Association are invited to attend. Official notice, together with the reports, will be sent to all members shortly via email.

If you live in the area, are not a member of the Association (and would like to be), simply email [rbkresidents@gmail.com](mailto:rbkresidents@gmail.com) for more information.

## ***Local. at Riccarton House***

We are open six days a week from Sunday through to Friday (9am - 4pm). The menu changes regularly and we have some wonderful locally sourced treats. Come and enjoy a coffee break, or better still lunch by the open fire.

Contact Details: Please contact the Restaurant on 03 348 6190

Email: [info@localatriccartonhouse.co.nz](mailto:info@localatriccartonhouse.co.nz)

Website: [www.localatriccartonhouse.co.nz](http://www.localatriccartonhouse.co.nz)



## ***Webfair***

<https://webfair.co.nz/fairs/riccarton-house-and-bush/>

Riccarton Bush Trust is one of ten charities participating in the inaugural Webfair. Think of the traditional white elephant stall ... only online.

The website enables supporters to load unwanted household items to be auctioned within a Group Fair environment.

Proceeds from the sale of these goods are donated to the organisation which has set up the "fair" account. The website went live on 2 June 2017 and you have until 24 June for "donators" to load their items and nominate their charity of choice.

### **The fair is live from 25 June – 2 July**

Any proceeds we receive will be going towards the maintenance and upgrade of interior furnishings, fittings and fixtures.



## ***Contacts***

Manager: Shona Willis, 341 1018 or 0275440462

Ranger: Gavin Ruckledge, 0211332280

Visitor Guide: Antonia Allison, 0274430067

## ***Opening Hours***

Grounds: 6am – 7pm daily

Bush: 6am – 6.30pm daily

