



Bush Telegraph



December 2017

From the Manager

Gosh, where has the year gone? – it seems to have shot by in the blink of an eye.

Parking on the site has been an issue and since 1997 the Board has been looking at options to extend the car park and provide a bus turning area. The final decision was to construct an additional car parking area to the north of the driveway adjacent to the Kahu Road frontage. Subsequent discussions with the Heritage Planners and also feedback from residents did not support the proposal. Accordingly the Board has decided not to pursue this option. The proposed location will now be landscaped.

We are currently having plans drawn up to upgrade our, rather shoddy, downstairs toilets and also prices to replace the very worn carpet in the entranceway, dining room and drawing room. We have some money budgeted but will source external funding to help make this happen.

Christmas is fast approaching and I hope you have time to take a break, catch your breath and have exactly the type of Christmas you want.

Shona Willis, Manager

What's happening in the grounds?

We are really noticing the lack of rain and some of the older trees on the ground are becoming stressed.

The car park appears to be causing considerable confusion to some of our customers, so we are looking at ways to make it easier.

We are still working with the Council on the completion of the cycleway. Signage and speed humps are still to be installed and the alternative entrance to the cycleway is going to be relocated closer to Kahu Road. The new lights and upgraded security cameras have been installed and they look really good.

Local. at Riccarton House

We are open six days a week, Monday – Friday and Sundays 9am - 4pm. (Closed Saturdays for the Farmers Market.)

Enjoy delicious seasonal lunch dishes, award winning wines and ales and a beautiful restored dining space as well as tranquil rose courtyard and verandah seating with gorgeous river views.

Also open for private dining, anniversary dinners, weddings, corporate hosting, memorial services and more.

Contact details for restaurant booking or private event enquiries:

Phone: 03 348 6190

Email: info@localatriccartonhouse.co.nz

Website: www.localatriccartonhouse.co.nz



What's happening in the House?

Pigeons have been the bane of our life and we have recently installed pigeon spikes on all of the nesting spots on the roof of the house. Numbers have reduced although the birds are very wily and still seem to find nesting places.

The spring cleaning is almost completed and the downstairs carpets are being cleaned over the Christmas break. The large mahogany table in the Fine Dining Room is getting a new lease of life and will be refurbished over the break.

Thanks to the generosity of Christopher Deans, we have been able to purchase some new (old) furniture. We now have a beautiful settee in the entranceway and some stunning walnut occasional tables on the upstairs landing. In addition we have purchased some additional bedroom furniture which, once recovered, will look magnificent.

I have been sourcing Marcella bed covers so the beds are no longer covered with table cloths.

Many thanks to Eileen Barron who has been scouring Op shops and repairing our embroidery. She has made a huge difference.

The Christchurch City Council provides second-hand computers to community groups and we were lucky enough to obtain a laptop and a desktop. These will be used as part of our project to develop and populate an asset register of all of our treasures.



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 are slightly shorter and a lot cheaper at \$8.00 pp. These run on the half hour while the market is on and are steadily increasing in numbers.

We have just started running historic garden tours led by our Gardener, Alan Bowles. These run for an hour twice a month and details are on our website.

Group and combination tours are heavily discounted and we also run private tours and school groups by prior arrangement.

Noticeboard

Christmas Hours - The house and cafe close on Friday 22nd December and reopen on Monday 8th January.

Christchurch Farmers Market – Every Saturday.

Defibrillator – The Halswell Hornby Riccarton Community Board funded a defibrillator which is located inside the house. All staff have been trained on its usage.

Residents Association - If you live in the area, are not a member of your local residents' association (and would like to be) simply email rbkresidents@gmail.com for more information.

Contacts

Manager: Shona Willis, 341 1018 or 0275440462

Ranger: Gavin Ruckledge, 0211332280

Tour enquiries: Antonia Allison, 0274430067

Opening Hours

Grounds: 6am – 9pm daily

Bush: 6am – 8.30pm daily

