



Bush Telegraph

July 2019

What's Happening in the Grounds?

The new driveway surface has settled down and is looking really good. Hopefully the mud bath will be a thing of the past.

Last Sunday night a driver crashed through the barriers on the Kahu Road frontage, so we are in the middle of replacing them. We have also noted that the posts on large Riccarton House signboard have rotted out. We will probably replace the sign with one mounted on the fence.

Recently we have been noticing more rubbish being dumped at our Kahu Road frontage. We had two big bags of clothes dumped in the last two weeks and about a month ago a trailer-load of garden waste. If any of our Kahu Road neighbours see anything suspicious it would be great if you would note any details – number plates, time of the day etc. and I can follow up.

We are noticing an increase in our rodent numbers under and around the house. We have a really good baiting programme both in the bush and in the house and we seem to be on top of it.



What's Happening in the Bush?

Weather conditions over the summer were perfect for our trees to flower heavily and produce a bumper crop of seed. The Department of Conservation (DOC), Trees for Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council are all harvesting seeds from the Bush to grow on. We also donated some small trees to the recently established Papanui Bush.

In April we had over 80 Waitaha geckos relocated from Gollans Bay into the Bush. The Bush was chosen because of the 7.8 hectares of established forest surrounded by the predator-proof fence. Back in 2012 a number of geckos were relocated from Sumner.

Tours

We run hour-long tours six days a week from Monday to Friday at 2 pm. Sundays 11am and 2pm. Group tours are heavily discounted and we also run private tours and school groups by prior arrangement. Book online at www.riccartonhouse.co.nz.

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

Note that Locals accompanying an Adult or Senior get to have a free tour with our 2:1 price special.



What's Happening in the House?

A little bit later than anticipated but work starts on our toilet upgrade on 15 July. The work will take about eight weeks to complete. There will be a spot of inconvenience, but the finished product will definitely be an improvement on the rather outdated ones we have now.

We were recently gifted a beautiful desk and a scotch chest as well as a bequest from the Estate of Betty Gill. The desk holds pride of place in the Morning Room and is certainly an improvement on the 1990s Oak barrier that we had.

Antonia Allison our Guide Coordinator left us earlier in the year to move to Picton. Anita Faulkner started in late February and is already worth her weight in gold.

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 bookings or private event enquiries:

Phone: 03 348 6190

Email: info@localatriccartonhouse.co.nz

Website: www.localatriccartonhouse.co.nz



Noticeboard

De-cluttering? - As part of our ongoing enhancements, we are on the look-out for indoor house plants, jardinières, old picture frames and brass pots. If you have any that are gathering dust and you are interested in selling or gifting them, please give Shona a call.

Books For Sale

Letters to My Grandchildren (\$20.00) - This book was first published by the Riccarton Bush Trust back in 1923 with subsequent editions in 1971 and 1995. In late 2018 we published a fourth edition. The enhancements include a larger font, over 100 pictures, maps and drawings, two family trees and a timeline to provide context to the reader.

Riccarton Bush : Putaringamotu (\$10.00 special) - A definitive 330-page hard cover text book edited by Dr Brian Molloy, covering the history, fauna and flora of Riccarton Bush.

School Holiday Special – School Children are free on our standard tours when they are accompanied by an Adult or Senior.

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

Visitor Experience Coordinator: Anita Faulkner, 341 1018 or 027 255 0372

Opening Hours (until 30 October 2019)

Grounds: 6am – 7pm daily

Bush: 6am – 6.30pm daily

