

# A Guide to the Guided Walks

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens offer free guided walks about the following topics. There's sure to be something there that interests everyone!

**General Interest Walk:** A 90-minute stroll through the Gardens, taking in its history and main points of interest.

**Mona Vale Walk:** A 90 minute walk that focuses on the history of the property and special garden features.

**New Zealand Gardens:** This unique area of native bush was developed over 100 years ago. It showcases a selection of New Zealand's native flora including our unique podocarp conifers and tree ferns.

**Notable trees:** A brochure is available listing these impressive trees. This popular guided walk focuses on the biggest and the best and tells some amazing stories.

**Conservatories:** This glasshouse complex started its life in the early 1900s. Cuninghame House, the main conservatory, and Townend House were named after their generous benefactors. The walk also takes in the smaller Garrick and Gilpin Houses with their unique collections.

**History Walk:** This focuses largely on the Armstrong Lawn at the Rolleston Avenue entrance to the Gardens. It was named after John Armstrong, an early Curator, who left a huge legacy in the development of the Gardens.

**Prince of Plants - The Noble Palm:** This is a short walk that highlights our Hardy Palms Collection, including our own native palm, the Nikau. It provides an opportunity to learn about the world of palms with its 3,000 species, including those that grow well in the Christchurch climate.

**Gondwana Walk:** A popular walk to the Western end of our Gardens where a Gondwana Garden is to be established in the future. This is an educational walk into the world of ancient plants from the days when New Zealand was part of the Gondwana Supercontinent.

**Biggest, Smallest, Quirkiest, Tallest:** This walk focuses on plants that exemplify the huge diversity in the plant world.

**Plant Hunters - Plants and their stories:** This walk covers selected trees and shrubs which tell the fascinating stories of some of the intrepid plant hunters of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Curious Conifers - A Walk in the Pinetum:** This walk takes us into the Pinetum across the river, and into the mysterious world of conifers.

**A Hidden Gem - The Cockayne Garden:** Leonard Cockayne was New Zealand's greatest botanist. This garden showcases hebes, native brooms, mānuka and some of our unique divaricating plants.



Rock and Crevice Garden: Wonderfully refreshed over the past few years displaying various rock, heath and heather collections and a brand new crevice garden.

Curator's House Potager Garden: This walk takes us to the Curator's House built in 1920. In 2000 it was leased to a restaurateur and a display potager garden was developed alongside. It is a vegetable, herb and fruit tree garden to inspire.

Going Nuts Over Bark and Cones: Bark is bark and a cone is a cone. Not so! Explore the diverse world of this fascinating subject.

Commemorative Trees: A brochure is available listing trees planted by special people on special occasions. This guided walk helps you navigate your way to view such trees.

Art in the Gardens: The Gardens have held different art exhibitions over the years. This walk tells the stories behind some of the varied items on display.

Temperate Asian Border: Asia is home to many exquisite plants, and this border opposite the Herbaceous Border on the Archery Lawn features many of these plants which do well in our climate zone.

Trooping the Colour - Our Herbaceous Border: We are very proud of our Herbaceous Border, at one time the largest in Australasia. A tapestry of colour, shape and texture from December to March, it is much loved by Christchurch residents.

Heritage Rose Garden: Cross the bridge over the Ōtākaro/Avon River near the Peace Bell, and follow the path east and you will notice an oversized chair made of porcelain pieces collected after the Christchurch earthquakes. This chair faces the Heritage rose garden which is seen in all its glory during the month of November with its old roses, peonies, aquilegias and much more.

Autumn Colour: Have you ever wondered what causes leaves of deciduous trees to change colour in the autumn? See trees on this walk displaying spectacular autumn colour during the month of April.

The Scented Garden: You will find this garden alongside the northern side of the Cuninghame House conservatory. It was established in 1990 and gifted by various women's organisations in Christchurch. Allow your nose to lead you to appreciate the wonderful world of fragrant plants.

Gardens as Architecture: This walk was created especially for the Open Christchurch Architectural Festival in 2021/22. Put together by one of our Guides, a retired landscape architect, it provides an opportunity to appreciate vistas, views and structure through an architectural lens.

