

APRIL 2026

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

NEIGHBOURLY UPDATES FROM THE RICCARTON BUSH TRUST



Update from the Manager

The Bush reopened in late November with a rather fantastic new boardwalk. The construction of the boardwalk included over 7,762 lineal metres of decking, 31,000 decking screws and 900 screw piles. We are getting over 2000 people a week visiting the Bush and this has stayed steady throughout Christmas and New Year.

Our next step is to replace the irrigation which will also help fire control. This work will be carried out during the winter by Morgan & Pollard. The Bush will remain open throughout the installation.



The Grove which is at the heart of the Bush was scheduled for stage two of the project, but the Trust has decided to complete it as part of stage one. We currently have \$39,000 of funds raised but need \$69,000 to complete the works. As these works are an extension of what we have already done, and as that initial work was competitively tendered for, we have asked Morgan & Pollard to do the work for us. We have made a number of funding applications so hopefully that work will start in the near future.

Our Ranger Mike left us in early March and he; Serina and Odin have relocated to Waiheke Island to be closer to family. Mike was with us for five years and he achieved an incredible amount in that time. Our relationship with the university and other educational institutions was strengthened; our place as a major seed source for Waitaha Canterbury was cemented and the Bush Enhancement Project wouldn't have been such a success without him. In addition, he could turn his hand to almost anything and the beautiful seats in the Bush are a testimony to that. Last and by no means least was his,

somewhat grudgingly, acceptance that he was to be the "face" of Riccarton Bush. Our Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok following increased every time we featured "Ranger Mike". We advertised for our new Ranger in late February and had over 160 applications. We have appointed Kate Steel. Kate will start in late April and will be living in the Ranger's House. More about Kate in the next Bush Telegraph.



Following the Local Government elections late last year, we have 2 new Board Members. Nicola McCormick represents the Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood Community Board and Tyla Harrison-Hunt, Councillor for Riccarton was appointed by the Christchurch City Council.

We have welcomed Bridget and Vanessa to our Guide team, and they will be fully trained and taking tours from early April.



Tours

Our passionate heritage guides are ready to welcome visitors back to Riccarton House for another season of stories, history, and discovery. Whether it's your first visit or a return to an old favourite, our guided tours offer a rich and personal look into one of Christchurch's most treasured heritage homes.

Tours run every Sunday – Friday, 11.00am and 2.00pm (bookings are essential).

We have a Guide onsite every Sunday for 11.00am tours, walk ins welcome (depending on availability).

Mini Explorers Tours: Perfect for the school holidays, explore the nooks and crannies of old Riccarton House with your Guide Tracey!

Book via the website: www.riccartonhouse.co.nz

Duration: 60 minutes

Price: \$5.00 per child, \$5.00 per accompanying adult.



Her City: Women Who Built Christchurch

This whole day tour weaves together the legacies of **Dame Ngaio Marsh, Kate Sheppard, and Jane Deans**. As you journey through their historic homes, you'll discover how each woman's vision, courage, and creativity were rooted in the very spaces they inhabited.

Book via Eventbrite website - search 'Her City'



Opening Hours

Opening Hours (from Sun 5th April)

Grounds: 6.00am – 7.00pm daily

Bush: 6.00am - 6.30pm daily

House: 10.00am - 3.00pm

Contacts

Manager: Shona Willis 341-1018 or 027-5440-462

Visitor Experience Coordinator: Tracey Kitchingman

341-1018 or 021-167-1032

What's Happening in the House

Story time at Riccarton House

When: Every Friday morning (10.30am - 11.00am).

Bring: A gold coin and enjoy local stories, songs and bubbles with your host Tracey! Perfect for preschoolers.

Merchandise for Sale

Alongside our literary staples, *Letters To My Grandchildren and Riccarton and the Deans Family*, we have built up a collection of souvenir and locally sourced items sure to delight. Pop into the Morning Room the next time you're visiting and have a cheeky peep, or you can shop online (www.riccartonhouse.co.nz)



The Quarters Cafe

We are open six days a week. Our Hours are Monday – Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm. and Sundays 9.00 am – 4.00pm (Closed Saturdays for the Farmers Market).

Enjoy delicious seasonal lunch dishes, award winning wines and ales and in beautiful 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: dine@thequarters.co.nz

Website: thequarters@riccartonhouse.co.nz

Follow us

Facebook: @Riccartonhouseandbush

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