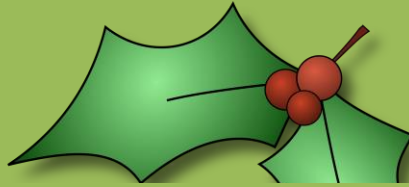




NUMBER 14. SUMMER 2016



BODY CORPORATE COMMITTEE

COMMUNIQUE'

Contents:

News & Discussion

We hope you are enjoying the revitalized entrance to the tower, looking back on what seemed at the time to be the "project from hell" it is satisfying to realise that the final result is special. The large picture on loan from Mr & Mrs Crockford-Pound makes a significant statement; and we have the promise of a second original by a well-known New Zealand artist from another generous resident.

This edition also has news from the Garden Committee listing work completed and describing future plans. Finally, the Committee members wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a truly brilliant 2017.

Foyer Rehab Project – Final Update

A big disappointment over the summer months was the lack of progress, the fact that work started and then had to be "put on hold". Disagreement with council on the status of the building was the cause of the delay and the fact that the issue was resolved in our favour was somewhat of a pyrrhic victory considering the inconvenience to residents and the lost opportunity of good weather.

However the job is finished and all that remains are one or two pieces of furniture to grace the larger space outside the lifts. The walls were deliberately painted white to provide a blank canvas against which a piece of artwork could be displayed and with the potential for colour changes in the future.

Garden Committee Report

Driveway:

Pruning of old and out of control trees along boundary with neighbouring properties has been started. Reducing height with the plan to get a thicker canopy for screening purposes is the goal.

At some stage over the next year or two an arborist will be employed to deal with the huge trees, some of which have a lot of dead branches that require removing and other may have to come down altogether.

Over time the amount of agapanthus will be reduced to a single band at the front. This will take time and much effort, and it is hoped that the front border will in part hide any unsightly removals in progress.

Where agapanthus have already been removed, plants and shrubs to provide more colour and interest are being used. Six camellia have been planted, hemerocallis (lemon day lilies) are being divided and moved into better positions, as are the variegated flax and Cana lilies. At this stage we are using plants we already have around the DP grounds rather than spending money on new plants.

Herb garden:

Thanks to Margaret Hallam and some good helpers this is thriving. Any resident is able to pick herbs or harvest a little of what is growing, provided scissors are used.

South Side:

The native garden is being monitored by Bob Kirk who is spraying and replanting where necessary. Also the agapanthus are being removed from the bush area and replanted with low growing natives that will maintain the view.

West Wing:

The area abutting the building was planted out late last summer, again using plants from other parts of the garden or those provided by residents. Clivias flowered well and now the abutlon are looking pretty with soft shades. Yellow daisies and flax removed from pool area were also planted in this space.

East Wing:

As this area is slightly separated from other main areas of garden a less formal and more colourful approach has been taken. Planted only a year ago work is still in progress. The wind funnels through here and this dictates what is planted. However three citrus seem to be coping and two small white hibiscus are being trialled as a number of close-by residents have asked for hibiscus if at all possible.

Pool area:

This is the most sheltered part of the garden and will eventually be transformed into an area with a tropical feel; colourful, lush growth and perfume. All the fiddly borders will be removed, again aiming for lower maintenance but good visual impact.

Suggestions:

Anyone who wishes to comment or make suggestions is very welcome to do so. They are OUR gardens and all input is appreciated

Contributed by Dianne Vigneau-Tongue (Apartment 108)



Miscellaneous Snippets

- **Wharf Access**
Last summer we had problems with strangers coming up the stairs from the wharf, climbing the fence and passing through the property. This has been addressed by building a short wire mesh fence each side of the gate and we are confident that this will prevent further illegal access.
- **The Pool**
A reminder that this fantastic facility is available for all residents to use. However if you have guests then please make sure that you are with them at the poolside. And if you see anyone you don't think belongs there then please feel free to challenge them, or if you are unsure then ring Dennis and he will check. There have been instances of non-residents using the pool as if it were their own. However Devon Park is private property and without an invitation they should not be enjoying this feature; they don't pay for its upkeep – you do!
- **10 Minute Park**
Please remember that the parking space outside the main entrance is to assist with the loading and unloading of residents cars – it's usually shopping bags – rather than for extended periods.
- **Tiling – East Entrance**
The eastern entrance to the tower (next to the mail boxes) has been smartened up with a lowered ceiling and painting. The floor and steps will be tiled soon using the same design as the foyer.
- **Driving Speed**
A number of residents have commented on cars travelling too fast within the complex. Please keep your speed down, there is quite a lot of foot traffic around the garage areas and there a number of children on the site.
- **Christmas Decorations**
Finally a big thank you to Andrew Mackenzie, Brendan Keenan and their many helpers who sourced the tree and put up the decorations in the foyer.

Our Web Site: www.devonparkauckland.co.nz

Reminders



Christmas Party

Owners & Residents are invited to a party by the pool on Wednesday 14th December (Thursday if it's wet) from 5.00 pm till dark. Bring a plate - drinks on the committee!



The Jetty Gate

Whenever you use the stairs to the jetty please remember to re-lock the gate both when you leave and when you return home. There have been uninvited members of the public wandering through the grounds on their way to and from the water.

Laugh Line.....(with apologies to the Irish Rugby team)

Two Paddies were working for the city works department
One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind and fill it in.
They worked up one side of the street and then down the other, then moved to the next street. Working furiously all the time and without rest, one man digging a hole and the other filling it in.

An on-looker was amazed at their hard work, but could not understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole-digger:

"I'm impressed with the effort you two are putting into your work, but I don't get; why do you dig a hole only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole-digger wiped his brow, and sighed: "Well I suppose it probably looks odd because we are normally a three person team.

But today the lad who plants the trees called in sick".