

PRESTON PARK

Manager's Newsletter | Spring 2024

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CHRISTIAN
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Proverbs 27: 23 *“Be sure you know the condition of your flock or gardens! Give careful attention to your herd or vegetables for riches do not endure forever. The crown is not secure for all generations! When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in; the land will provide for you clothing and the sale of the goats will cover the cost of a new field; then you will have plenty of milk to feed your family and nourish the household”* King Solomon (David's son) is suggesting that at this time of the year i.e. spring it's a time for ALL of us to take account of all that you own! Check out the condition of each asset and all aspect of it and ensure that you nurture those things that are going to continue to provide for you into the future and remove the unnecessary clutter? A good spring clean in other words!

The winter is over and gone! It has been a good winter really; No too cold for too long, sufficient rainfall and the moisture level in the soil is now very good. Most of the trees have survived the winter storms and gusts, although we did lose some older fragile trees. There were no major slips and generally we've been able to mow throughout the winter.

Since this time last year we have lost our volunteers, except Rotarians who come once a month for the morning. I've been left carrying 'the can' along with James who assistance has been most valuable yet inconsistent.

Finding part-time support staff has proved tricky too, so I have employed Supreme Green Gardening Ltd - a gardening business run by a parent BC. Lesley bought her 2 staff members with her last Friday for the first time. They will be in the park every fortnight from now on until March. We review our relationship in December. Her first task was to start to clear the lake edge. Tiding up the flaxes and cutting the long grass etc Once it's clear mulch will complete the tidy up. Then to another project.

I had a breakfast the other day with Chris Brauchli. 25 years ago Chris and wife Sue assisted Vicky and I with the concept and then the design work for our new home at 16 Elder Lane. Much has transpired in that quarter of a century - their 4 children have 'flown the nest' and to many parts of the world. Chris a creative/designer-type, an entrepreneur who has pioneered many new businesses all relating to affordable Homes. He has been cleaning out an old shed on the farm and has several items of steel which he feels we could make some sculptures for the park. We are meeting over lunch next week and we'll see what he's thinking! Watch this space - perhaps you can assist us!

You may wonder about the Preston Park budget? Our next-door neighbours are 'The Vines' - on our northern boundary. Before they could begin their amazing development they had to find a way to remove their surface water. It was the Tauranga City Council who



suggested they contact the Christian Education Trust and seek permission to run the water down a large pipe into 'Preston Puddle' The water would be filtered as it makes its way through the lake and towards the Wairoa River. The deal was sealed with the signatures and The Vines promising to: pay an annual levy; and to sculpture the land around the lake; construct a boardwalk around the lake and tracks around the perimeter walkways. This was all completed 7 years ago. Their annual contribution is the budget for Preston Park. It has worked out well and covers basic needs. New and large projects still demand fund raising. I am so thankful to the Lord 'His Vision has His provision'

This morning, I went for a ride in Rova and took some photographs in the park. Vicky is kindly put these into this newsletter. I chose to 'snap' some new spring flowers; shoot some new vistas in the park. I hope you will enjoy!

It's so lovely each day to see the range of people who visit and spend time in and around Preston Lake and enjoying the serenity of space. They give me generous oral support are encouraging comments that make my labour of love a pleasure. The Park is place of serenity, beauty and an opportunity to sit quietly in God's creation and draw strength and nourishment to your soul. I am again reminded of **Isaiah 42:3** *A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness He will bring forth justice; 4 He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope."* 5 *This is what God the Lord says — the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it":*

May the Lord speak to your heart as you clean up and "set your house in order" as we suggested in this newsletter! May you prosper in the Lord.

Graham C Preston



'All things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all!'