



Photo shows the members of the Waimate National Council of women

Wednesday 19 September 2018

The Waimate Edwardian Heritage Group has commemorated 125 years of Women getting the vote by unveiling a bronze plaque and information board in the Suffrage Garden in Knottingley Park.

Wednesday 19 September was a beautiful spring day and members of the Edwardian group in their heritage costumes, wearing white camellias and replicas of the New Zealand Suffrage sashes welcomed their guests and visitors.

We were very pleased to be able to share the occasion with two special groups who had a connection with the Suffrage Garden, the Waimate National Council of Women and Friends of Knottingley Park.

The National Council of Women evolved from the Suffrage movement; and the Friends of Knottingley Park at their first meeting decided to create a Suffrage Garden in 1993 as it was the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage and the National Council of Women had a commemorative Kate Sheppard camellia to plant.

The proceedings opened with Group President John Coles welcoming everyone, Mayor Craig Rowley then spoke and mentioned that the Waimate Council is unique in that we have an equal number of female and male Councillors. John invited Nancy Dobbie, representing the National Council of Women, to unveil the bronze plaque and then invited Heather Sell, representing Friends of Knottingley Park, to unveil the information board.

The information board is fascinating to read as it shows Waimate news items of the day and mentions names still known in Waimate.

Following the official proceedings, members of the Edwardian group moved over to the pavilion area for a picnic lunch. Before the lunch started Sandra Coles, as the longest serving President of the Waimate Edwardian Heritage Group, cut a beautifully decorated cake.

Thank you to everyone who came along to share the 125th anniversary of New Zealand women getting the vote, the first self-governing country to award this right to all women.



Heather Sell from Friends of Knottingley Park after unveiling the Information Board



Picture shows John Coles Waimate Edwardian Heritage Group and Nancy Dobbie speaking just before unveiling the plaque

