



Hidden gem: Swan Lake is an award-winning attraction.

Gardens make a splash

By Nick Tolerton

FOUR Horticultural Society and Beautifying Association awards have helped put south Christchurch's hidden gem Swan Lake on the map.

The 5600 sq m gardens off Erniea Tce opened to the public in December, and have proved a popular drawcard for visitors and walkers.

Owned by developer Duncan Laing, Swan Lake is adjacent to the Ernie Clark Reserve.

Mr Laing bought the property in 1987 and after a lot of redevelopment and improve-

ments opened it to the public this summer. Another 5000 sq m was sold a year or two ago to the city council as a reserve.

"It's the Mona Vale of the south of Christchurch," he said of Swan Lake.

"We were absolutely delighted to win the awards - we had never entered before."

The awards included one for its water wheel feature.

Walking groups and visitors were welcome and Swan Lake encouraged charity groups to use the gardens for fundraisers, he said.

Open from 10am to 5pm

Monday to Saturday, the gardens are drawing increasing numbers of visitors.

The garden features a huge variety of plants including many rhododendrons sourced from Ilam Homestead.

There is also a Thai health-care day spa on the property, the first of its kind in Christchurch.

The awards for Swan Lake were for best feature and best frontage up to 82m (Beautifying) and outstanding commercial garden feature and best class nine garden (Horticultural).

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