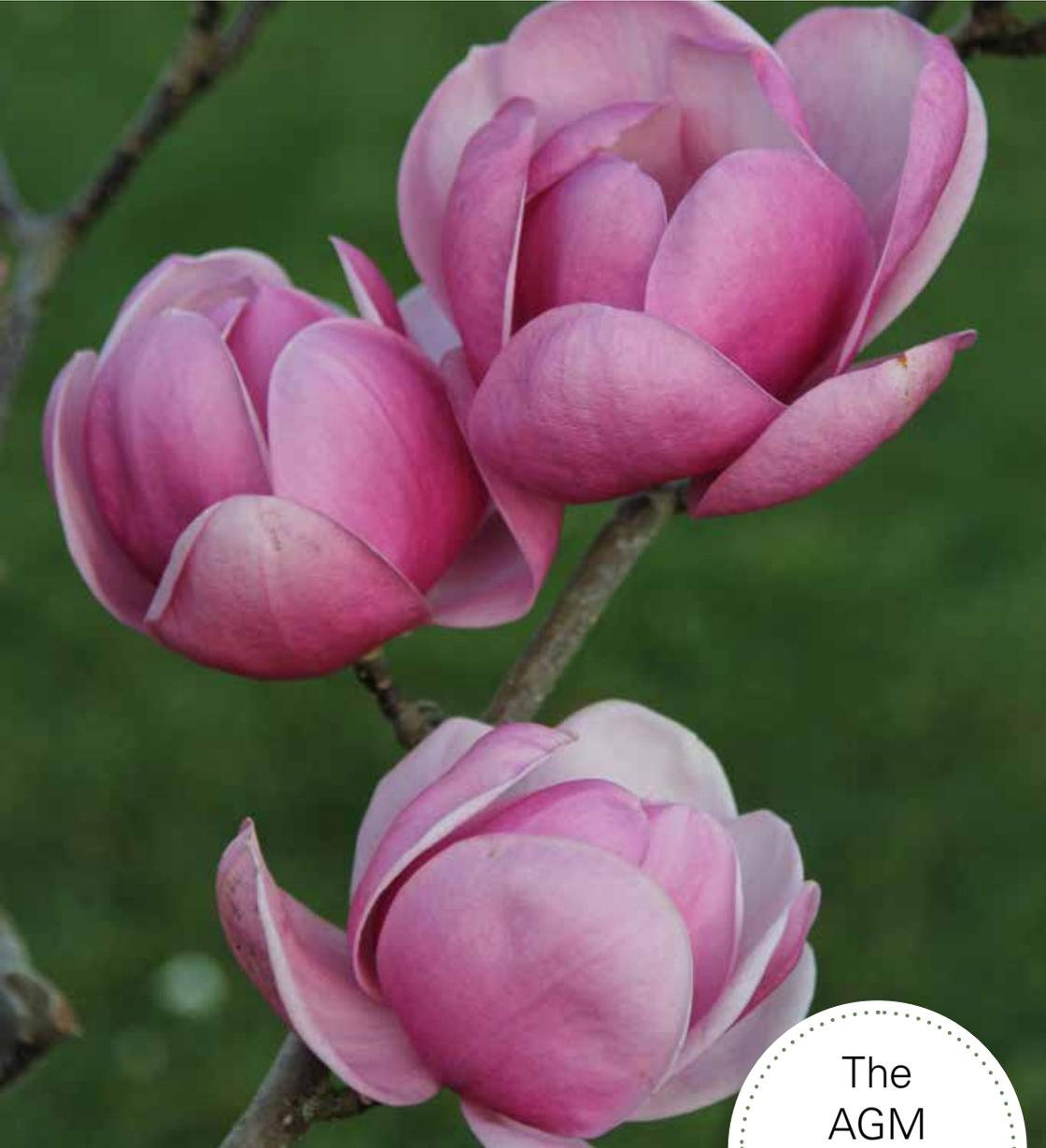


The Auckland Garden

Newsletter of the Auckland Botanic Gardens and Friends

September 2017



The
AGM
Issue

Contents

FRIENDS AGM NOTICES

- 3 Programme & election of officers
- 4 Agenda & 2016 minutes
- 7 President's report
- 12 Wiri Rambler report
- 13 Growing Friends report
- 13 Library Management Group report

GARDENS NEWS

- 16 Jack's update

FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS

- 17 President's report
- 19 Soup Day
- 19 Call for volunteers
- 20 Farewell to a very special lady

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK

- 21 Seasonal activities
- 22 Snippets from the Rose Garden
- 23 Which tomato to grow this summer?
- 25 *Arthropodium* for Auckland
- 26 IPPS conference - need for speed
- 27 BGANZ seminar stimulates ideas
- 29 Upcoming events
- 30 Feature collection - magnolias



23



25



30

© Material in this newsletter is copyright. Please refer to the Friends' website www.friendsabg.co.nz for the full Copyright Statement. Individual items may be reproduced provided that the source is acknowledged and the author's permission is obtained. Contributions are welcome and material for the December 2017 issue should be submitted by 3 p.m. Friday 10 November 2017 to the Editor ross.ferguson@plantandfood.co.nz. Botanic Gardens staff should send their contributions to Jack Hobbs.

The
Auckland Garden
is the quarterly
newsletter of the
Auckland Botanic
Gardens and Friends

Auckland
Botanic Gardens
102 Hill Road
Manurewa
Auckland 2105

Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens Inc.

2017 Annual General Meeting Notice

The 34th Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on Saturday 23 September at 4.30 p.m. in the Friends and Volunteers Building at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, 102 Hill Road, Manurewa.

All Friends are encouraged to attend the AGM and to nominate candidates for election to the Executive Committee. You may wish to stand yourself. Nomination forms are enclosed with this newsletter or may be obtained from the Administrative Assistant (email: admin@friendsabg.co.nz). Please remember that only current financial members may nominate or vote.

AGM programme

4.30 p.m.
AGM, Friends and Volunteers Building

6.00 p.m.
Predinner drink followed by dinner and coffee at Café Miko, Botanic Gardens. Booking and prepayment for the dinner is essential – the booking slip is enclosed.

7.30 p.m.
The after-dinner talk will be given by Emma Bodley (Botanical Records and Conservation Officer) on her trip overseas last year to botanic gardens of the USA to learn about plant records and research.

Election of officers

The retiring 2016-2017 Executive Committee is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President | Dianne Glenn |
| Vice President | Liz Powell |
| Past President | Bill Burrill |
| Treasurer | Judy Williams |
| Secretary | Jan Sutherland |
| Committee | Terry Becher Ross Ferguson Graeme Hauer Heather Hine Jenny Hunt Laure Lamason Kate Moodie Annette Toon |
| Ex officio | Jack Hobbs (Group Manager, Botanic Gardens) |
| Administration | Marsha Jobes |

AGM agenda

1. President's introduction
 2. Apologies
 3. Minutes of the thirty-third Annual General Meeting held on 27 February 2016
 4. Matters arising
 5. Presentation of President's annual report
 6. Presentation of annual accounts
 7. Motion of thanks to the Auditor
 8. Appointment of Auditor
 9. Presentation of Friends' Birthday Gift to the Gardens
 10. Friends' Buchanan Award
 11. Trustees' report
 12. Election of officers
 13. Election of trustees
 14. Gardens report
 15. General business
-

2016 AGM minutes

from the thirty-third Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens Inc.
held in the Friends Building at the Auckland Botanic Gardens
on Saturday, 27th February 2016 at 4.35pm.

- President's welcome and introduction
President Bill Burrill welcomed the 37 members of the Friends present.
- Apologies
Holly Powley, Mary Davies, Jack Hobbs, Garry and Judi Hadfield, Ron Davison, Alana Becher, Graeme and Deborah Hauer, Rod and Val Bieleski, Dick and Eleanor Lane, Lindsay Hatch, Micheline Newton. Moved that the apologies be accepted - B Burrill/L Powell - Carried
- Minutes from the 32nd Annual General Meeting (held 21 February 2015)
These were circulated with the Agenda. Moved that the minutes as circulated be taken as read and accepted as a true and correct record. B Burrill/J Sutherland - Carried
- President's annual report
The report had been circulated with the Agenda. Bill thanked all the marvellous committee for their help over his term. Moved that the President's Annual Report be accepted. B Burrill/D Glenn - Carried

- Annual accounts
Judy Williams commented on the accounts and that this has been the nicest handover she has ever experienced, thanks to Neville Haydon. Mr O'Brien, auditor, was present and confirmed that the accounts were in order and that it was a pleasure to work with this organisation. He thanked Judy for all the hard work she has put in. Moved that the annual accounts be received J Williams/A Toon - Carried. Moved that the auditor be reappointed. B Burrill/D Glenn - Carried
- Nomination for Honorary Life Membership - Terry Becher
A citation, prepared by Jack Hobbs, was read by Liz Powell. Terry acknowledged the work done by his fellow committee members and volunteers who are all involved in all aspects of the Gardens. Terry was presented with flowers. Moved the award of Honorary Life Membership be confirmed. L Powell/B Burrill - Carried
- Presentation of Friends' Birthday Gift
The Friends will contribute \$10,000.00 as their 2016 Birthday Gift which will be spent on video information screens in the Visitors Centre. Moved that the Friends' gift be approved. B Burrill/J Sutherland - Carried
- Friends' Buchanan Award
Emma Bodley is the successful applicant. Emma is heading off in May to visit Botanic Gardens in eastern United States.
- Trustees report
There was no report, as there has not been a Trustees meeting within the last 12 months. Dianne Glenn will take over the role of President of the Trustees.
- Changes to the constitution
Bill Burrill spoke of the need to make changes to have a financial year end at 30 June as circulated with the Agenda. Next AGM will be 17 September 2017. Moved that the changes be accepted J Williams/B Burrill - Carried
- Election of officers
The list of nominated officers was shown on a whiteboard. There were no nominations from the floor.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Dianne Glenn |
| Past President | Bill Burrill |
| Vice President | Liz Powell |
| Secretary | Jan Sutherland |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Treasurer | Judy Williams |
| Committee | Terry Becher, Claire Cuneen, Ross Ferguson, Heather Hine, Laure Lamason, Annette Toon, Graeme Hauer, Jenny Hunt, Kate Moodie |
| Ex officio | Jack Hobbs |
| Administrator | Jill Wheeler |

- Moved that listed nominees be accepted as the Committee for 2016
B Burrill/A Toon - Carried
- Election of editor
Moved that Rod Bieleski be re-appointed as Editor keeping in mind that he wants to retire in 2017 and would like an apprentice to assist this year. In speaking to the motion, Sue Davison said that Rod needs to be congratulated for his efforts over more than 21 years and that his writing was really interesting. S Davison/R Ferguson - Carried
- Gardens report
In the absence of Jack Hobbs, the report was presented by Liz Powell. Moved that the report be accepted B Burrill/D Glenn - Carried
- General Business
 - Bill Burrill reminded everyone that the Sculpture in the Gardens was closing next week with a day of music and entertainment and, at 4 p.m., presentations will take place in a pavilion set up on the front lawn.
 - Dianne Glenn thanked Bill for his leadership and support. Thanked him for what he has done and, with Maggie, his support of the Gardens over the years.
 - Kathrina Muller asked that we recognise the Friends Foundation Members present today. Bill said that a photo would be taken after the meeting.
- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.25 p.m.
- Signed as a true & correct record.

.....

Date.....

President's AGM report

Most Presidential Reports are for 12 months but as we changed our financial year, I need to report on 18 months of activity. I wish first to honour those who have gone before me and paved the way for this exciting time ahead of us.

I ask that you take a few minutes and reflect on those members and volunteers who have passed way in the past 18 months, some who have served us so exceptionally well; our Life Member, Past President and longstanding Editor of *The Auckland Garden*, Dr. Rod Bieleski who is sorely missed; Peter Tatham, Patron of the Sculpture in the Gardens (SitG) who with partner Adrian Burr, gifted us (Big Bird) Egg Chair; Barry Lett, Sculptor and long-time supporter of the SitG, and our inaugural show grand award winner with Big Rock Dog which is now at Ayrliès Gardens; Dr. Ron Davison, Foundation Member of the Friends and a senior scientist with the DSIR in Mt Albert; Lorraine Mellsop, who devoted many years to guiding visitors through the Gardens on the Wiri Ramble; Robert Johnston, long time Friends member and financial supporter of the SitG; Anne Stone, dead-heading volunteer and weed-warrior in the Rose Garden and later a Roving Volunteer; Carmel Hare whose expertise in herbs when establishing the Herb Garden was greatly appreciated; and Mary Poole remembered for her guiding services on the Wiri Rambler and assisting as a volunteer in the visitor centre during the SitG.

While recognising these significant contributors to the Friends and the Gardens, I wish to recognise those who have contributed to us with gifts and donations – Adrian Burr and the late Peter Tatham for the (Big Bird) Egg Chair sculpted by Samantha Lissette and the donation by Graeme Vincent and the late Barbara White, of James Wright's *The Boy, Kauri and Kereru*. Thanks to the late Miss Sylvia Paton, whose bequest of \$2000 provided a workbench which added to the upgrade of the Growing Friends' workplace, and the donation from Eleanor Lane towards the SitG. Further donations are pending which I will acknowledge at the AGM. I wish also to acknowledge those members who are Patrons/donors towards the funding of the upcoming SitG exhibition – without your assistance, we may not have been able to hold this event. The Manurewa Local Board is continuing to be supportive with a donation again of \$30,000 towards SitG.

At this point I wish to acknowledge the late Frank and Jill Nathan, on whose farm, the Auckland Botanic Gardens was established. After correspondence with their descendants, daughter Wendy Baruch and grandson Isaac, the

Friends' Executive Committee decided to donate and install a garden seat (situated in the Rock Garden) to commemorate their significant contributions to the Gardens. We are indebted to the family.

These acknowledgements do not lessen the gratitude that we, the Friends' Executive Committee, wish to express to all our volunteers who support us in our activities and fulfil many functions to support the Gardens staff. We acknowledged the wonderful work of the Growing Friends, led by Graeme Hauer, by significantly upgrading their workspace by replacing the shade house and the workbenches. In compliance with our H&S Policy, we requested an upgrade to the front entrance of the Friends Building – a hand rail and hazard strips on the steps, water-blasting algae off the steps and wheelchair ramp, and repairing the security light that is important at night meetings.

Volunteers driving the Wiri Rambler and those guiding the visitors expressed frustration with the sound system essential to educate and inform visitors, shorting out each time they went over a bump. The Friends Executive Committee agreed to fund a new system, resulting in happy volunteers, ably led by Kate Moodie. There are many others who volunteer their time and energy – in the Library, in the Visitor Centre, out in the Gardens dead-heading roses – grateful thanks to you all. We have managed to provide some morning teas/lunches to volunteers, and for staff with whom we have a rewarding partnership.

The Wiri Rambler was put to good use in May 2016, when we received a visit from members of the Friends of Dargaville Riverside Gardens – Taha Awa, a themed garden depicting the Kaipara – led by President Lyn Trounson, with the purpose of gaining ideas to improve management of both the Gardens and their volunteers. Members of our Friends Executive Committee assisted with valuable information from Bill Burrill, Sue Davison and the late Rod Bielecki on our own history, Rod on communication and the importance of compiling a photographic history, especially through newsletters. Annette Toon informed them of the e-newsletter, the development of our website and brochures. Jan Sutherland provided information on the visitor centre. I thank Julia Watson for contributing with information on managing volunteers, including protocols and legislative requirements that must be met, utilising the Gardens for education purposes and linking partners who support and contribute to programmes and events. The visitors gifted us a young kauri tree – a direct descendent of Tane Mahuta.

As I recall the past 18 months, the biggest decision the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees had to make, was whether we

could successfully take on the huge responsibility of staging SitG. SitG had previously been managed by Micheline Newton (Visitor Services Manager) and Jack Hobbs (Manager of the Auckland Botanic Gardens) who directed funding from the Gardens Budget to provide base funding, with members of the Friends Executive Committee providing additional funding and volunteer hours, ably assisted by Past President and Life Member Byrdie Ayres who filled out all those applications for funding and donations. Patrons contributed funds while curators provided the expertise to select sculptures for the exhibitions. The tables were turned last year, when we learned we could no longer rely heavily on Auckland Council support and if the exhibition was to continue, the Friends would have to be the managers and funders. We spent many heart-searching nerve-wracking hours – could we take this on without putting the Friends at financial risk? We commissioned a Feasibility Study which did not forecast an entirely positive future but provided enough direction to continue.

The Friends decided the best way forward was to appoint an Organising Committee, experienced members and patrons being co-opted, assisted by the curators of previous exhibitions. This team consists of Dianne Glenn, Bill Burrill, Liz Powell, Byrdie Ayres, Judy Williams, Ainsley Walter, and Rachel de Lambert (Curators' representative) with assistance from Richard Mathieson (Indoor Curation), Linda Tyler and Terry Urban (Curators). We also appointed an event manager, Kim Stretton, contracted to undertake most of the work required to ensure an exhibition could successfully be staged without risk and, I hope, to lead us through to a future sustainable model. As Chair of this Committee, may I express my sincere thanks to all of them for their determination and sheer hard work to ensure that the "show must go on". This year's SitG will be officially opened on Wednesday 8 November with 20 new sculptures being exhibited until the end of February. There will be only one official opening with the Friends being invited to join the sculptors, patrons, sponsors, donors and stakeholders – it promises to be a grand event.

The "nut and bolts" of the Friends contribution to the Gardens and staff has continued. Once I was elected to the position of President, I undertook to ensure we had a Health and Safety Policy and Plan to comply with the Act. These, combined with the Botanic Gardens H&S Policy and Plans, ensure that all who work or volunteer in the Gardens or who visit, are covered for incidents causing harm, and that accidents meet the requirements for ACC claims. The Friends also have Statutory and Public Liability Insurances – so please feel well protected when you are on site. Jan Sutherland, as well as taking on the role of Friends' Secretary was appointed Safety Officer. Sub-Committees were established for Performance Review (overseeing contracts) and Risk

Management. Positions on these Committees are held by the President, the Treasurer and a member with office management experience with others co-opted if/when necessary. Further policies established are for Purchasing, Credit Card Use and Financial Risk with valuable advice from Judy and Auditor Peter O'Brien. Thanks Peter for your contribution to the Friends. Treasurer Judy Williams has provided sterling work over the past 18 months guiding us through all financial management, including investments. Judy commenced as Treasurer, mentored initially by previous Treasurer Neville Haydon, who retired at the last AGM, but who has continued to be involved in our extensive camellia collection through the Neville Haydon Camellia Fund. This is a research project established as a partnership between the Auckland Branch of the NZ Camellia Society, and the Friends of Auckland Botanic Gardens, each contributing \$10,000, to encourage and support research into combating petal blight, the most serious disease in camellias. In the June 2016 Queen's Birthday Royal Honours, Neville was honoured with the Queen's Service Medal for his services to horticulture.

Life Member Liz Powell continues to manage events such as the Soup Day and Bus Trips, enjoyed by so many members, oversees the updating of the Friends' Executive Committee Handbook and Constitution, and works with volunteer groups in the Library, the Painting Friends, manages the Visiting Artist programme (although we postponed this in the past summer to make way for the Dinosaurs) and of course, contributes to the SitG. Laure Lamason and Heather Hine contribute so freely to a variety of roles within the visitor centre and the Gardens, social events held by the Friends and as with the last SitG, will again co-ordinate volunteers for this exhibition. Liz organises the task of posting out the quarterly newsletter, *The Auckland Garden*, ably assisted by Laure Lamason, Heather Hine, Annette Toon, Jan Sutherland and Trustee Barbara Myron.

Ross Ferguson has very generously taken on the role of Editor of *The Auckland Garden* – our quarterly newsletter. We all breathed a great sigh of relief that we have such a knowledgeable member from the “plant world” on our Committee, who also has “word-smithing” expertise. Both Terry Becher and Graeme Hauer also lend much of their experience to guide us in decisions around our relationship with the Gardens and programmes for which we provide assistance.

Committee Member Annette Toon continues to keep us abreast with communications through the website, (friendsabg.co.nz) and E-Newsletter “just between friends” and ensured we had Copyright and Privacy Policies to safeguard members and their personal information.

Annette initiated a photographic competition, opening in October with the announcement of awards on 29 October. The competition is open to Friends and staff of the Gardens. Jenny Hunt and for part of this term, Claire Cunneen, have provided guidance within the Committee meetings.

Last, but of course not least, thanks to Life Member and Immediate Past President Bill Burrill, who has been there as my backup, continues to contribute through the Executive Committee and the SitG Co-ordinating Committee. Having been in a Past President role in other organisations, it is a relief to pass on the responsibilities but not always easy to accept a new President's direction, but I have found Bill a great support. We must thank him and wife Maggie for hosting our December meetings in their palatial new home.

We have had a change in the role of Administrator of the Friends – Jill Wheeler provided service at the beginning of my term so it was great for her to be a "carry-over" from the previous Committee. Marsha Jobes has been administrator this year, and is now preparing for increased activity over the period of the SitG exhibition.

The Friends support staff of the Gardens in many ways but one of which we are very proud is through the Buchanan Award. Each year we sponsor overseas travel, up to the value of \$10,000, to gain botanic garden experiences, to attend a botanical/horticultural conference, to research or study to educate/up-skill a member of the staff in ways that can benefit the Gardens. Because we used to announce the Award at our AGM and we changed our financial year, we distorted the schedule for this Award and have had to make some adjustments. Bec Stanley, awardee in 2015, was unable to take up her Award, because the course for which she applied at Kew Gardens was cancelled, but this year she submitted a different programme which was approved. The 2016 awardee was Emma Bodley who visited the USA last year and will enlighten us after dinner at the AGM. The adjustment to the Buchanan Award schedule meant that we have already awarded Julia Watson the funds to travel to the USA for her 2017 programme (from which she has recently returned) and have caught up with the AGM timetable of announcing the Buchanan Award at this year's AGM. A previous awardee Owen Newson was able to deliver his speech on his visit to Singapore "Gardens in the Bay" to the July 2016 Soup Day, but with the upset in the schedule, we did not have an awardee to present at this year's Soup Day – instead Terry Hatch was able to enlighten Friends about his Subantarctic Islands visit. We are proud to congratulate Terry on being awarded a New Year's Royal Honour – Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to the horticulture industry.

These past 18 months we have also made financial contributions for many staff to attend significant conferences, both in New Zealand and Australia. Gardens Manager, Jack Hobbs, meets with the Executive on a monthly basis, informing us of progress and developments relating to the Gardens and opportunities where we can support staff development. As well as contracting student Keely Paler to undertake pollination for the camellia petal blight project, we contributed \$4000 to two Manukau Institute of Technology students to undertake research on popular winter crops. Our annual Birthday Gift was another casualty of the changed financial year. I am currently awaiting suggestions to announce a gift at the AGM. I trust you have all enjoyed the gift made in February 2016 – the six electronic screens used collectively as a visual wall or individually in the visitor centre – Huakaiwaka - for audio-visual displays to reflect current themes in the Gardens.

We look forward to another active year in 2018, with the Auckland Botanic Gardens hosting the NZ “Botanical Art World Wide” exhibition, from March to July, in partnership with the Painting Friends who have already sought submissions of botanical art to exhibit. Submissions are already coming in and it promises to be an exciting and very professional exhibition.

Dianne Glenn ONZM JP

Wiri Rambler AGM report

Our small loyal team of volunteers have had a busy eighteen months. The Rambler has operated, weather permitting, every Sunday and Saturday and most public holidays during the summer. Between June 2016 and July 2017 we have recorded 369 hours worked earning \$12,333.

In 2016, the Rambler was fully serviced, inspected and certified to meet Worksafe registration. This will be done again in 2018. The newly fitted sound system is operating well and giving passengers a more professional service.

We held our annual meeting on 1 May 2017 at which we acknowledged the long service of three of the team, two having joined as the first team. Following the meeting those retired members who could be located joined us for lunch.

We are still looking for new people who are willing to spend one afternoon a month enjoying time in the Gardens meeting people.

Kate Moodie

Growing Friends AGM report

It's been an amazing 12 months for the Growing Friends. The biggest change is a new shade house made of steel and aluminium and a lot bigger. There are all-new galvanized mesh benches inside. We won't have the moss and mould problems growing on them as we had with the wooden benches. There is also an all-new watering system covering all the plants that are on the benches. In addition, we have three new galvanised potting benches, which are outside. These will allow three people to work on each bench. There are also two long mesh benches outside. All costs were met by the Friends.

The Botanic Gardens nursery continues to give us a lot of plants, along with those we propagate ourselves. Plant sales have been better for the last 12 months, better than the previous couple of years. EFTPOS has made a big difference to our plant sales.

Wet Thursdays over winter have had us working in the shade house. If the rain is very light, we all have our rain coats on and just put up with the rain and cold. With no Sunday plant sales for June, July and August, plant sales have been very up and down depending on the weather. Sunday plant sales start again on 3 September.

The Growing Friends did over 1600 volunteer hours over the last 12 months in our nursery.

Lastly, we are still looking for clean used plastic pots of any size. We can use plastic bags, but we prefer to recycle. Just drop them off at the Botanic Gardens visitors centre or at the Growing Friends when we are open.

Graeme Hauer

Library Management Group AGM report

This report covers the 18 months since the last Friends AGM. I would like to start by thanking everyone who has worked in the library. There have been many changes. I specifically want to say thank you for the support and time you give to the library. I hope our four new volunteers this period have enjoyed their time and I hope to see them back again.

We held our annual library volunteer morning tea in April 2016 and 2017. About half of our volunteers joined us each time to hear about the latest

developments in the library and catch up with each other. We hope that more volunteers can make future morning teas as it is a great opportunity for the committee to discuss developments and new things to the library with everyone.

The BGANZ open day was held on Sunday 29 May 2016. Despite the constant rain, we had quite a few visitors to the library, perhaps looking for shelter, and raised \$50 from book sales. Roger Price organised a great display on native trees with the help of Heather Hine. There was a lovely range of books and fresh specimens from the Gardens.

The library was closed from the end of May to July 2016 for renovations and repainting. New lights, a heat pump and carpet were installed. New seating and cushions were purchased to tie in with the modern look. We created a kids' corner and invested in new children's books as we had seen an increase in the number of children visiting the library. We want to engage kids with plants and encourage them to learn and read about them.

Another successful book sale raised \$90 in September 2016. This sale ran for three days, Friday to Sunday, and we were almost cleared of the books we had available.

We are succeeding in getting our books onto the Auckland Libraries Catalogue. Two wonderful staff from the Auckland Central Library Cataloguing Team worked one day a week, starting mid-September, at the Gardens adding our books onto the system and re-classifying, changing spine labels and adding barcodes inside the books. It's a big job so I am grateful for the support from Auckland Libraries. This will really open up our resource to the wider community. I am sure researchers and other garden enthusiasts will make the trip to the Gardens once they know we have a book of interest to them. Also a special thank you to Heather Hine, who has come in weekly to help sort out the new labelling of these books. It has been great having someone dedicated to making sure labels have been put on correctly and consistently. We are continuing this in 2017 with many books still to be added to the catalogue.

In October 2016 we held a famil about the library to share the projects we are working on and to see the newly renovated space. It was great to have volunteers who work in various parts of the Gardens see the resources we have. Everyone who came gave us great feedback about the talk and found it very informative. Some are interested in volunteering in the library in the future.

Emma Bodley

Books purchased in 2016/2017

| Book Title | Author |
|--|----------------------|
| Botany in a Day | Thomas Elpel |
| Planting in a Post-Wild World | Rainer & West |
| Geraniums | Margaret Stone |
| The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes | Rick Darke |
| The Creative Shrub Garden | Andy McIndoe |
| Whose Beak is This? | Gillian Candler |
| The Book of Leaves | Coombes & Debreczy |
| The Plant Lover's Guide to Magnolias | Andrew Bunting |
| Paradise Through the Seasons | Alan Trott |
| Arboretum | Owen Johnson |
| Empire of Tea | Markman Ellis et al. |
| Eagle's Complete Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand | Audrey Eagle |
| The Coastal Garden | Isobel Gabites |
| The Colour Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses | Rick Darke |
| The Florilegium | Morris & Murray |
| A New Zealand Nature Journal | Sandra Morris |
| Discovering New Zealand Birds | Sandra Morris |
| Experiment with Pollination | Nadia Higgins |
| Paddington in the Garden | Michael Bond |
| Plants that Never Ever Bloom | Ruth Heller |
| Kapai and the Kauri Trees | Uncle Anzac |
| One Little Fantail | Anne Hunter |
| The Adventures of Hutu and Kawa | Avis Acres |
| Billy Showell's Botanical Painting in Watercolour | Billy Showell |
| Flora of the Cook Islands | Bill Sykes |
| Yates Young Gardener Growing Things to Eat | Janice Marriott |
| New Wild Garden: Natural Style Planting and Practicalities | Ian Hodgson |
| Science and the Garden | Ingram & Vince-Prue |

| Book Title | Author |
|--|---------------------------|
| The Plant Lover's Guide to Clematis | Linda Beutler |
| Environmental Horticulture: Science and Management of Green Landscapes | Cameron & Hitchmough |
| Drought Resistant Planting | Beth Chatto |
| The Evolution of Plants | Willis & McElwain |
| Plant Systematics | M Simpson |
| Five-Plant Gardens: 52 Ways to Grow a Perennial Garden with Just Five Plants | Nancy Orda |
| The New York Botanical Garden | Long & Forrest |
| RHS Encyclopedia of Perennials | Graham Rice |
| Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens | Richard Aitken |
| A Botanist's Vocabulary | Susan Pell & Bobbi Angell |
| Raised Bed Revolution | Tara Nolan |
| Kniphofia: the Complete Guide | Christopher Whitehouse |
| How do Worms Work | Guy Barter |
| Plant Lovers Guide to Hardy Geraniums | Robin Parer |
| Plant: Exploring the Botanical World | Victoria Clarke |
| New Zealand Rose Review 2016-17 | NZ Rose Society |
| Bliss Irises: the Journey to a National Collection | Anne Milner |
| Building Soil | Elizabeth Murphy |
| The Gardener's Companion to Medicinal Plants | KEW |
| The Amaryllidaceae of Southern Africa | Graham Duncan |
| RHS Big Ideas, Small Spaces | Maguire & Woods |
| Carnations | Twigs Way |
| The Art of Gardening | R William Thomas |
| The World in a Garden: Singapore's Gardens by the Bay | Bonnie Tinsley |
| Florae Insularum Novae Zelandiae | Allan Cunningham |

Jack's update

Every time I travel overseas I am reminded what a great country we live in. My recent trip to Mongolia and Siberia was one of the most interesting and uplifting I have ever done, but life here by comparison is a picnic. Yakutsk in central Siberia is the world's coldest city with an average temperature of -3°C , winters can be -60°C , and the permafrost reaches 1.5 km deep, yet somehow the people cope admirably.

Our travels took us from Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia to Tiksi on the Laptev Sea in northern Siberia. I found numerous wildflowers that I will write more about in future newsletters. Another highlight was running into Helen Clark at the Trans-Mongolian railway station. During our 24 hour trip she showed me wonderful photos of the plants she had seen in Mongolia.

It has been a big year for travels by Gardens staff. Bec Stanley and Julia Watson both recently attended conferences overseas and undertook garden visits with their respective Buchanan Awards. These opportunities are wonderful both for staff development and keeping the Gardens at the forefront of international trends, and we are very grateful to the Friends for enabling them to take place.

Generally things run much better at the Gardens when I am away, but this time all sorts of things broke down including our power supply. Mich and our wonderful staff coped brilliantly with it all as always, and lots of great things also happened.

The very talented Pippa Lucas (Collection Curator Perennials and Annuals) won the Young Horticulturalist of the Year amenity sector competition in Wellington and will represent the amenity sector at the finals in October.

James Wright's sculptures Ratiti Mya which the Friends purchased at our last Sculpture in the Gardens have finally been reinstalled with new paving around the bases as per Butterfly. You may have also noticed near our visitor centre entrance that Fred Graham's wonderful Manu Torino is undergoing repairs to



ensure its safety.

The new Regional Parks Manager is Rachel Kelleher who currently works in Environmental Services where she has worked as Biodiversity Manager, and recently as Biosecurity Manager.

Shortly before I left we converted one of our amenity gardener positions to a curatorial one. Jeff Jones was successful in securing the new role, and he will curate

our Native Plant Ideas, Threatened Native Plants Garden and Palm Garden. Kerry Gillbanks, who has returned from maternity leave, will curate the Native Plant Identification Trail, Harakeke Collection and assist with the Palms.

I hope to see many of you at the Friends AGM where Emma Bodley will make a presentation on her Buchanan Award trip to America.

Jack Hobbs

President's report

My husband David and I have just had a brief holiday in Australia. We have often planned to cruise up the Murray River, in South Australia, but never quite made any more than a short trip. We chose the Proud Mary over the paddle steamer for a time that suited us, and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend journey in good Australian company. Skies were incredibly blue – but, oh the wind! Four layers of clothing needed when standing out on the deck to take photographs. Here I was disappointed as the bird-life which I wanted to record, was all so far away, even with a 300 mm telephoto lens. However, since coming home I have been able to enhance photos by cropping, so I do have a reasonable record. A short eco-tour took us through wetlands to see the geological history and the different

types of gum trees – I learned about “canoe trees”, whereby aborigines cut only the thick bark to make a canoe, leaving the remainder of the tree to survive.

Following the cruise we stationed ourselves at Victor Harbour in the south – still very cold but we drove out each day to see the area. One such daytrip took us to Goolwa where there were renowned colonies of birds and seals which I planned to photograph, but when we got to the Barrage which they inhabited, there was a long walk and the skies opened up with heavy rain to go with the wind, so again “no go”. My disappointment was muted by our return trip back to the township, and there outside the Goolwa Art Centre were two great carved wooden sculptures – one

of a pair of aborigines wrapped in blankets (against the cold wind?) and one of a group of pelicans – parents and a baby being fed by one of them (shown below). I thought this would be of greater interest to the members than a bird resting, swimming or flying.



Wooden pelicans at Goolwa Art Centre, South Australia

Relief to fly from Adelaide (5-12°C), to Brisbane and 24°C. We stayed with a Pukekohe friend in her timeshare at Coolangatta as we often do. Unfortunately, someone made a mistake and we had the wrong week, and with school holidays just starting, we thought we might have to sleep on the beach! Lucky to get another apartment over the border into Tweed Heads, we settled in but had a severe shock the next morning (Sunday) when developers cut through the electricity cable supplying the whole block. Twelfth floor, no power, no water, and no phone or intercom (and reception not answering our cell phone call). David, the fittest of the three of us had the job of walking down 12 flights in the dark, and back up again to tell us of the cut. No generator for emergency power – so the reason I am writing this is to send a message (especially following the fire in London) – check that any hotel or apartment of several floors, that you book into, has emergency power!!

Dianne Glenn ONZM JP



SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS

11 November 2017 – 25 February 2018 Auckland Botanic Gardens

Soup Day

On Sunday, 9 July, another successful Soup Day was enjoyed by a group of Friends. Sincere thanks to those committee members who had prepared a variety of delicious soups and other goodies for us all to enjoy.

A special treat was to welcome well known Friends member, horticulturist and conservationist, Terry Hatch (ONZM!) and his wife Pam. Terry talked to us about his recent trip to the Subantarctic Islands, places of extraordinary and fascinating plants and wildlife. Terry enlivened his talk with a selection of the wonderful photos which he had taken on the trip – and with some of his poems which the Islands had inspired.

Thank you, Terry, for a presentation which may have inspired some of the more intrepid of those listening to

follow in your footsteps. And grateful thanks again to those who provided, prepared, served and cleaned up after a delicious lunch.

Liz Powell

Graham Hauer and Terry Becher in charge of the soup



Call for volunteers

The Gardens wishes to renovate some of the memorial seats and are looking for two or three DIY volunteers who would be happy to join the asset team in renovating the seats during one week late September. If you are handy with woodworking tools such as a sander or enjoy painting furniture we would love to hear from you. Please contact Micheline Newton, Visitor Services Manager on 09 890 8641 or email Micheline.newton@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

- Remember
- to sign up to
- volunteer for
- Sculpture in the
- Gardens! There
- is a wide range
- of roles available.
- See the website
- sculptureinthegardens.nz for
- more information.

Farewell to a very special lady

On Tuesday, 1 August, a group from the Gardens, including staff and a number of Rose Garden volunteers, attended the funeral of Anne Stone, who passed away on 25 July 2017 after a short illness. A well-liked and highly valued volunteer, Anne was a dead-heading volunteer in the Rose Garden when I joined the Gardens in July 2000. I soon realised that Anne, although quiet and unassuming, was a virtual power-house of energy, invariably selecting the most difficult roses to work with and staying the longest. Not content with just dead-heading on a Wednesday and Friday morning over the summer months, the rest of the year she waged war on weeds throughout the Rose Garden - with particular vengeance on those that dared invade her favourite areas, around the pond and the NZ Rose Garden.

Anne also later joined the Gardens' Roving Volunteer group, where her stamina and strength of character were admired by one and all.

Over the years, I learnt that we were not the only ones to benefit from Anne's generous spirit. Other activities included, but were not limited to, delivering Meals-On-Wheels, volunteering at Totara Hospice, working as a registered nurse at the Howick Baptist Hospital, laying bait traps in the Hunuas, and

working on revegetation projects in a number of Regional Parks. How she fitted all of these things in, around her great love for her family and tramping, is awe inspiring!

Few would have ever guessed that Anne would have turned 85 in December! She remained sharp to the end, with clear instructions to the family on how she wanted her affairs finalised.

Anne's presence, and amazing contribution to the Gardens, will be sadly missed. However, I know she will be remembered with great affection, and may we all be inspired by her generous spirit and zest for life.

Paula Lollback



Seasonal activities

Ready, steady, go! It's spring ime

Gardening in spring feels like we are on 'edge' and running on adrenalin as we tidy garden beds, sow summer vegetable seeds, apply compost and mulch, plant perennials and annuals, undertake spring pruning and keep up with the weeding.

Edible Garden

Sow seeds of peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, lettuces, spinach, silverbeet, leeks and beetroot. You can sow cucurbits (pumpkin, squash and zucchini) now but ensure they are kept under protection. Herbs such as parsley, thyme, mint and rosemary can be planted if they are ready. Direct sow coriander, carrots and broad beans.

Add lots of compost (or manure) and the right amount of organic fertiliser (refer to instructions) to garden beds and ensure that the compost is mixed well with the soil.

Perennial Garden

Cut back frost tender plants such as cannas and heliotropes once the threat of frost is over. Now is the perfect time to stake taller perennials and those that require support like alstroemerias and lilies before new

vigorous growths take off. Add mulch to beds to help suppress weeds and retain moisture during summer.

Rose Garden

New roses can still be planted now in early spring before the weather gets drier. There should be enough moisture in spring to help roots get established. Fertilise roses with a rose fertiliser or blood and bone (with sheep pellets). Tie in new growths on climbers to keep them under control.

Spring pruning

Prune camellias in late spring before new growth begins. The overall look you want is an open, airy plant with a uniform look. You can achieve this by:

- removing weak internal crossing branches;
- removing lower branches 30 cm off the ground;
- removing or shortening laterals which are thickening into heavy branches to encourage good floral display;
- pruning around the whole plant and always prune to an outward facing bud;
- pruning new growth on hedges to keep them under control and help maintain the overall shape of the hedge.

Mere Brewer

Snippets from the Rose Garden

Stage one trial roses:

Over the past few months, work has been undertaken to improve drainage in this area. Where there used to be four separate beds, these have been merged into one, which has been raised and repositioned over existing drain coil next to the path. The realignment will significantly improve access to the roses, for both visitors and volunteers alike, and will also reduce edging and mowing. New trial roses will be planted as soon as the soil has settled and any weeds have been removed.

Top Performers:

- Looking for a good cluster-flowered/floribunda? My current personal favourites would be My Mum, Wild Cherry and Summer Passion. However, Serendipity, Tropical Delight, Fellowship, Everlasting Love, Fond Memories, Arabella, Tickled Pink, Raspberry Ice, Pink Ice, Modern Miss and Scentasia are all good performers.
- Prefer a large-flowered/hybrid tea? Nelson Girls is an excellent cultivar, although, if space is an issue, Love Me Do would be a better choice.
- Want a shot of colour, with easy care? Check out Rosa Flower Carpet Scarlet along the path leading to the pond.

- Want to go up in the world? Some 44 years after it was bred, 'Compassion' still remains a firm favourite of rose lovers throughout the world. In New Zealand, Dublin Bay continues to hold the top spot, even though it lacks fragrance. If you don't want to deal with prickles, 'Climbing Pinkie' or 'Crépuscule' could be your best bet.
- Love the old-world look of the David Austin roses? Rosa Mary Rose, Graham Thomas, Gertrude Jekyll (fabulous perfume!), Leander and Lucetta should not fail to please.
- Don't overlook the wonderful heritage varieties we have in our Rose Gardens! Whether repeat-flowering Noisettes, Teas, Chinas, Hybrid Musks and Rugosas, or once-flowering Gallicas, Mosses or Pimpinellifolias, plant some history and discover why rosarians all around the world have fallen in love with these treasures!

New Volunteers:

We rely on our amazing team of rose deadheading volunteers to ensure maximum flowering throughout the season. This year rose deadheading will commence on Wednesday 1 November 2017. If you would like to join our team, we are always very happy to welcome new volunteers:

Where? We meet by the gate leading from the Northern Depot into the Rose Garden.

When? Weather permitting, Wednesdays and Fridays, from approximately 9 a.m. through until midday.

What do I need to bring? Just yourself - gloves and secateurs are provided but feel free to bring your own gear if you prefer.

Do I need any experience? No, just plenty of enthusiasm and a sense of humour!

NB: New volunteers should phone the Visitor Centre, prior to joining the rose dead-heading team, to ensure the necessary paperwork is completed.

Paula Lollback

Which tomato to grow this summer?

Last summer we trialled 13 cultivars of tomatoes. You might have noticed this trial because of the huge structure built to support the tomatoes but also to keep people from harvesting them and therefore skewing our results. The aim of this trial was to identify the top performing cherry, medium and large tomato cultivars suitable for growing in Auckland in terms of vigour, yield, taste and disease resistance. The trial further sought to determine the benefits of applications of a foliar feed and a preventative fungicide spray. This trial was carried out by Matthew Savage and Julie Hubrich, two Manukau Institute of Technology students, and was supported by the Manukau Beautification Charitable Trust.

Of the cherry tomatoes, 'Gardener's Delight' produced the best yields

by weight, followed by 'Sweet 100'. 'Sweet 100' had slightly higher sugar levels. 'Gardener's Delight' and 'Sweet 100' are recommended as cherry cultivars to grow in Auckland.

Of the medium tomatoes, 'Early Money' produced the highest yield by weight, followed by 'Chef's Choice Orange'. 'Juliet' produced the highest numbers of fruit. Both 'Early Money' and 'Juliet' had slightly higher sugar levels. 'Early Money', 'Chef's Choice Orange', and 'Juliet' can be grown well in the Auckland area.

Of the large tomatoes, 'Country Taste' produced the highest yield by weight, followed by 'Marriage Big Brandy'. 'Marriage Big Brandy' had a few plants that produced cherry size tomatoes rather than the expected larger fruit and is not recommended.

'Country Taste' could be grown well in the Auckland area but did not perform as well as the smaller-fruited recommendations. In general, cherry varieties do better overall than other tomatoes.

We applied liquid fertiliser (AgriSea) fortnightly to half of the plants in the trial. Liquid fertiliser applications did not produce significant differences between treatment yields or tomato taste. We recommend an initial application of a liquid fertiliser but based on the evidence from this trial, regular applications during growing season are not required.

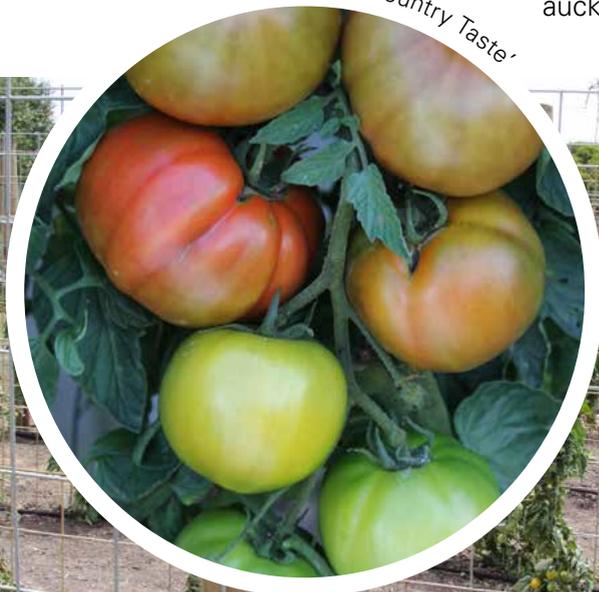
We applied copper spray weekly as a preventative measure against blight to half of the plants in the trial. However blight did not have a major impact during this tomato

season (summer 2016–2017) and was uncommon on the trial plants. Copper spraying started relatively early in the tomato season owing to an early sign of blight on one of the plants but no other signs of blight were observed. Summer 2016–2017 was expected to encourage blight owing to the extreme humidity; however this was not the case. It was an unusual year and results would probably be different if repeated the following summer. Blight has been more prevalent in previous years so this part of the trial would need to be replicated in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about this trial, you can see the full results on the science section of our website: aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/science/research/articles/which-tomato-cultivars-grow-well-in-auckland

Emma Bodley

Tomato 'Country Taste'



Arthropodium for Auckland

Arthropodium cirratum (rengarenga or NZ rock lily) is a New Zealand native herbaceous plant commonly used in amenity horticulture and home gardens. It thrives in shady places and performs well in dry soils such as under trees, and is often used in mass plantings. It provides effective groundcover, being evergreen and requiring minimal maintenance. Sprays of white flowers are produced on spikes in late spring and summer. In the last few years bacterial leaf spot has become more obvious on rengarenga in Auckland. It develops a red colouration on the foliage, a defence to protect the leaves after a light infection (in this case bacterial leaf spot). This red colouration also develops after frosts.

The Gardens has trialled 20 *Arthropodium* selections from 2012 to 2017 to find a top performing cultivar or selection for growing in Auckland. Evaluations focused on assessment of overall ornamental merit, severity of red bacterial leaf spot and snail/slug damage.

Cultivars that performed well and scored an 8 or higher in the overall rating included *A.* 'Matapouri Bay', *A.* 'Parnell' and *A.* 'Downtown'. *A.* 'Downtown' is commonly marketed erroneously as *A.* 'Avalanche'. We also recommend *A.* 'White Knight', but we would

like to emphasise that it will do well only in specific locations. *A.* 'Downtown' can easily be divided vegetatively and can be multiplied in this manner more rapidly than most *Arthropodium*.

To learn more about this trial please visit the science section of our website: [aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/science/research/articles/rengarengas for auckland](http://aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/science/research/articles/rengarengas%20for%20auckland) or see our latest publication in the New Zealand Garden Journal, 2017, 20(1): 2-5.

Emma Bodley



IPPS conference - need for speed

We made it to the first day of the International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) conference with sighs of relief that all the organising was done and we were ready to begin. Or so we thought...The committee met with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and then all field trips to nurseries in the area were cancelled. The dreaded Myrtle Rust had hit New Zealand!

Friday morning the conference began with record-holding shearers Sam and Emily Welch talking about their achievements before declaring the conference open. Next we met our 'four-pack' for the weekend, Devin Westley (Southern Woods), Eve Ilves (Waimea Nurseries), Courtney Rudd (Starter Plants) and Ursula Kewick (Te Horo Ornamentals). We welcomed Kelly Broadlick from Fourth Corner Nurseries in Washington State here representing the Western Region of IPPS.

We had some great speakers lined up, our own Paula Lollback on 'Garden Favourites', Jack Hobbs on plant breeding at the Botanic Gardens and some interesting ideas on island revegetation where money is no object. A quick re-hash of the field trips saw us off to Punchbowl Kiwifruit pack house, Perrys Berrys, then to the Auckland Botanic Gardens for a late lunch

and talk about trial work from Jack. Racing along with the conference theme 'Need for Speed' it was off to Ayrilies Garden where the lovely Bev McConnell spoke to our members.

The day finished off at the Ardmore Aerodrome for a lively AGM.

Saturday morning saw papers presented on the respective exchanges between the New Zealand and Western Regions, travels through central Asian countries, breeding ornamental pumpkins and kiwifruit production. Dr Paul Fisher explained the use of plant growth regulators on ornamental plants.

The afternoon field trips included highlights and landmarks around the Pukekohe area, guided by Terry and Lindsey Hatch, followed by a visit to Joshua Orchids, cucumber growers, and then up to the top of Pukekohe Hill. The formal dinner was held at the Pukekohe Race Course with the theme of 'An Evening at the Races'. An auction was held and awards presented. Congratulations to Jeff Elliott - Elliotts Wholesale Nursery who was presented with the 'Award of Merit' and Brent McKenzie - IPPS Historian from the 1980s-2017 (unfortunately absent) who received the 'Award of Recognition'.

Sunday morning saw papers presented on potato growing and

marketing in NZ, dahlia breeding and *Agapanthus* sterility breeding update. Biosecurity concerns were fielded by a very brave lady from MPI, followed rapidly by the great 'Myrtle Rust Debate'.

Lastly, an invitation was presented by Hayden Foulds to the Palmerston North Conference for 2018.

Billie Elliot
IPPS member since 2007

BGANZ seminar stimulates ideas

Danielle Cipperly, Jeff Jones, Shelley Small, Emma Bodley and I attended the NZ Group of BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand) seminar day in Wellington in April. We had a very windy, wet (and short) trip to Otari where we appreciated the diverse plantings and landscape settings of this native botanic garden. The founder of the garden, Leonard Cockayne, wrote how this garden was to be maintained with his opening stipulation being "The first consideration should be beauty" – this was apparent from carpark through to the collections, with pleasing plant combinations and a high standard of horticultural maintenance. There seems to be a special micro-climate which enabled plantings from sub-tropical to alpine to be appreciated in a condensed space.

The seminar day theme was 'Embedding plants into visitor experiences: Using plants to tell your stories'. Everyone who attended from Auckland Botanic Gardens

presented. Emma and I explained Eye of Nature and the way in which we develop educational interactive activities to engage kids with plants and nature; Shelley presented the guided walk programme and the use of interactives (e.g., kete) to connect visitors to plants; Jeff talked about the clever ways to inspire visitors to grow natives using the example of Native Plant Ideas Garden and Danielle explained the role of a public gardener to communicate to visitors in a high profile garden such as the Edible Garden.

Other topics described included the developing focus on plant conservation, the Zealandia Sanctuary (a fenced reserve primarily for birds) and the "hidden garden" apprentice project of the Wellington City Council. We heard two talks from Linda Burns on the displays and interactives in the visitor centre of Christchurch Botanic Gardens including the kids' interactive activities and the Ngai Tahu stories. Patrick Elliott from Wellington

Botanic Garden visited us last year on a staff exchange and talked about our meadows trial and what he'd learned from us. He is installing a meadow at Wellington BG and we look forward to sharing more information from our experiments in the future. Bev Abbott from the Otari Trust presented her year 13 field visit course on plant speciation and the tours she takes for cruise ship visitors. Finn Michalak from Otari explained the development of new gardens balancing Leonard Cockayne's vision in the 1930s and modern planning, e.g., flow of paths and people.

Some cool ideas we took away:

- Using quizzes on touch screens to engage adults with plants is a really simple, fun way of conveying plant information to people, and who doesn't love doing a quiz!

- Embedding leaves, flowers and seeds into Perspex to put under the microscope in the kids' area would reduce the time collecting and refreshing specimens and is a beautiful way of displaying them.
- Thinking of different ways for apprentices to complete their units such as "hidden gardens" for the public to find as a way of completing a third-year "looking after an area" project.
- I am keen to read a meadow book recommended by Patrick Elliott (Curator at Wellington Botanic Garden).

The Friends kindly supported Jeff, Danielle and Shelley in attending the seminar day.

Bec Stanley

Gardens staff Emma Bodley, Shelley Small, Danielle Kipperly and Jeff Jones at Otari



Upcoming events

Exhibition
date change

Spring display

Spring arrived early in the Huakaiwaka visitor centre. The team have created a display that showcases four key areas of the Gardens where they are highlighting specific plants of spring interest. It will be a great way to gain ideas of plants that you can grow when looking for spring flowering plants. The display runs until October.

Botanical Art Worldwide

Work is well underway for the staging of New Zealand's part of the Botanical Art Worldwide Exhibition, being held at the Botanic Gardens from 30 March - 1 July 2018. Artist submissions are coming in and there has been interest from a number of galleries throughout the country in holding the exhibition once it closes in Auckland.

A category for secondary school students is to be organised and we are hoping for an enthusiastic response.

The focus is the indigenous flora of each country and in November when submissions close our three judges will be selecting the works for display.

For further information go to:
www.friendsabg.co.nz or
www.botanicalartworldwide.info
Tell all your artist friends and encourage them to send a submission!

Painting Friends art group - weird and wonderful

No, not us, but the theme of the Painting Group's exhibition which will be on display in the visitor centre Gallery at the Gardens, with the new dates of Saturday 30 September through to Sunday 15 October.

The plant world contains much that is wonderful, beautiful, odd and sometimes weird and you will see it here! Come along and enjoy what the group has produced – there will be something for every artistic taste and in a variety of media. Works will be for sale.

Subscriptions

There are still a number of outstanding subscriptions for the 2017/18 financial year. Notices for these were included with the June newsletter and we rely on members to pay within a reasonable time. If your subscription is outstanding, please pay this promptly. Members not currently financial in November will be considered to have resigned and this will be your last newsletter. Subscriptions can be paid by cheque, eftpos or cash at the visitor centre or by direct deposit (ASB 123011 0757619 00). Please put your name on the bank transfer and indicate that this is a membership renewal. Thank you.

Feature collection - *Magnolias*

Let 'Yellow Lantern' guide your way

Chase those winter blues away with a stroll through the Magnolia Collection and discover the magic that awaits! The abundance of blooms and striking colours will definitely put a spring in your step. This is my favourite time of the year.

The Magnolia Collection was first planted in 1985 and has over 200 magnolias to discover. It consists of species, hybrids, evergreen and deciduous types from Asia and North America. Most magnolias are suited to Auckland conditions with a range of tree sizes and flower colours for home gardens. New Zealand breeders have created some exceptional magnolias with smaller habits to suit the smaller backyards many people have these days. Some of those breeders include Ian Baldick, Vance Hooper, the Jurys, Peter Cave and Os Blumhardt. All of these plantsmen have bred magnolias with various colours and forms, which have now been distributed all over the world.

Your journey starts from the pure white of *Magnolia denudata*, to the rosy pink petals of *M. 'Star Wars'* then let *M. 'Yellow Lantern'* guide you the rest of the way.

Magnolia 'Arabian Nights' was bred here at the Gardens by Stuart Robertson and every year it puts on an abundance of burgundy red flowers. A real show stopper.

Magnolia doltsopa x *M. maudiae* 'Snowdove' is a rootstock seedling which was discovered here at the Gardens. Its icy white blooms float effortlessly with a perfume to match. It is evergreen, with a well-rounded habit and never fails to put on a good show.

Here are some of my favourite magnolias which always impress:

- *M. 'Red As'* has a small, upright, compact habit and produces goblet-shaped bright red flowers. It was bred by Ian Baldick of Ramarama, South Auckland.
- *M. 'Yellow Lantern'* is a small rounded tree producing pale yellow flowers, with a touch of pink at the base.
- *M. 'Brixton Belle'* was bred by Vance Hooper, in Brixton, Taranaki. This has beautiful pink *M. campbellii*-like flowers, on a pyramidal shaped tree. As an added bonus, it has a second flush of flowering in summer.
- *M. 'Grant David'* is a particular favourite of mine, and always puts on a great show around the loop road at the Gardens. The blooms are red to purple

with a pale white interior.

***Michelia* or *Magnolia*?**

Did you know *Michelia* is now botanically classified as *Magnolia*? As a horticulturist, I can see many differences between the two. In particular that *Michelia* species tend to set flowers down the stems, whereas *Magnolia* flowers are at the tips.

Interestingly, some *Michelia* can flower for months, and put on a spectacular show. They are very versatile plants. You can use them for hedging, screening, garden specimens and even in pots. They are very fragrant. Have you seen the groundcover *Michelia* 'Free Spirit' currently planted in the Magnolia Collection? It has glossy green leaves and creamy fragrant flowers. Come check it out and let me know what you think.

There are many support plants that add a woodland feel to the collection. You cannot help but notice the soft pastel colours of *Helleborus orientalis*, or the pure white double flower on *H.* 'Mrs Betty Ranicar', which makes for a great groundcover. There is nothing more exciting and warms your heart in a garden than a mass of bulbs indicating that Spring has arrived. Bluebells (*Scilla* species) definitely put on a great show in the collection. Their blue tones stand out amongst the white and pink magnolia blooms.

Anemones always put on a great show with their shades of pinks and whites. There are also irises, pushing their long stalks from the leaf litter showing off their blue tones.

I'll now end this journey through the Magnolia Collection and let you personally explore what it has to offer. It is now time to blow out your 'Yellow Lantern'. But before you do, I recommend you check out the last magnolia at the end of the path: 'Sayonara'.

Mark Fielder

Magnolia 'Yellow Lantern'





Tomato 'Country Taste'



Auckland Botanic Gardens

Where ideas grow