

The Auckland Garden

Newsletter of the Auckland Botanic Gardens and Friends

September 2019



The
AGM
Issue

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Front cover image: Sturt's desert pea, *Swainsona formosa* at Alice Springs Photo: Jack Hobbs

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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.

2019 Annual General Meeting Notice

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on Saturday 28 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 friendsofabg@gmail.com). Please remember that only current financial members may nominate or vote.

Election of officers

The retiring 2018-2019 Executive Committee is as follows:

President	Dianne Glenn ¹
Vice President	Liz Powell ¹
Past President	Bill Burrill ¹
Treasurer	Judy Williams ² Linda Christie
Secretary	Laure Lamason
Committee	Viv Canham Ross Ferguson Graeme Hauer ² Heather Hine Kate Moodie
Ex officio	Jack Hobbs (Group Manager, Botanic Gardens)
Administration	Irene Horton

¹ Term completed

² Not standing for re-election

AGM programme

4.30 p.m.

AGM, Friends and Volunteers Building. Please bring this issue of The Auckland Garden with you as it contains the agenda and reports.

6.00 p.m.

Pre-dinner drink followed by dinner and coffee at Café Miko, Botanic Gardens. Booking and prepayment for the dinner is essential – the booking slip is enclosed. Please return before Wednesday 18 September.

7.30 p.m.

The after-dinner talk will be given by Bec Stanley: Stipa Steppes to Alpine Meadows. In 2018 Bec, with support from the Friends of

Auckland Botanic Gardens, attended three plant conferences in Kyiv (Ukraine), Berlin (Germany) and Geneva (Switzerland). This talk will touch on the stories from Auckland

Botanic Gardens that were shared at the conferences, and focus on some highlights of the people, plants and some of the 17 public and Botanic Gardens visited.

AGM agenda

1. President's introduction
 2. Apologies
 3. Minutes of the thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting held on 29 September 2018
 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. Increase in subscriptions
 10. Presentation of Friends Birthday Gift to the Gardens
 11. Friends Buchanan Award
 12. Trustees Report
 13. Election of Officers
 14. Election of Trustees
 15. Election of Life Member
 16. Gardens Report
 17. General Business
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2018 AGM minutes

From the thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens Inc. held in the Friends Building at the Auckland Botanic Gardens on Saturday, 29th September 2018 at 4.30pm.

- President's welcome and introduction
President Dianne Glenn welcomed the 28 Friends and visitors present. She made special note of the attendance of Angela Dalton (Chair), Stella Cattle and Angela Cunningham from the Manurewa Local Board.
- Apologies
Holly Powley, Byrdie Ayres, Roger and Ann Price, Irene Horton, Cr. Daniel Newman, Jenny Hunt, Bill and Maggie Burrill, Graeme Hauer, Lyndsay Hatch, Alana Becher. Moved that the apologies be accepted - Ross Ferguson/Shona Pitcaithly - Carried
- Minutes from the 34th Annual General Meeting (held 23rd September 2017)

These minutes were circulated with the agenda and other reports as part of the September Newsletter. Moved that the minutes as circulated be taken as read, and accepted as a true and correct record. Kate Moodie/ Sue Davison - Carried

- Matters arising
There were no matters arising
- President's annual report
The report had been circulated with the other meeting material. Dianne commented particularly on the challenges involved with the Friends acting as the lead organisation in running and financing the 2017/2018 Sculpture in the Gardens event. Owing to the lobbying and support of people such as Cr. Daniel Newman, Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore and Stella Cattle with the Manurewa Local Board, the Gardens have now received a significant financial commitment from the Auckland Council to fund Sculpture in the Gardens over the next 10 years. The event will be run by the Gardens in partnership with the Friends. Dianne also noted the changes in the way the Friends allocate the Buchanan Award and she made special mention of the highly successful and popular Worldwide Botanical Art Exhibition. Moved the President's report be accepted - Dianne Glenn/Stella Cattle – Carried
- Annual accounts
Judy Williams as the Friends Treasurer, reviewed the content of the annual accounts copies of which were circulated at the meeting. She acknowledged in particular the funding in cash and kind from a range of sources which was crucial in supporting the 2017/2018 Sculpture in the Gardens. Peter O'Brien, auditor, was present at the meeting and confirmed that he had audited the accounts and that everything was in order. He commended Judy for her high standard of financial management and reporting, and emphasised how important it was that organisations such as the Friends maintain a rigorous approach to financial management. The finalised reports will be on the Charities website. Moved that the annual accounts be received - Judy Williams/Heather Hine - Carried
- Motion of thanks to the auditor
Moved - Dianne Glenn/Ross Ferguson - Carried
- Appointment of auditor
- Moved that Peter O'Brien be reappointed as auditor subject to his acceptance - Judy Williams/Sue Davison – Carried

- Presentation of Friends Birthday Gift to the Gardens
As their 2018 Birthday Gift, the Friends will contribute another \$10,000 to an entranceway to one of the gardens leading off the new Pacific Pathway. Moved that the Friends' gift be approved - Dianne Glenn/Kate Moodie – Carried
- Friends' Buchanan Award
Pippa Lucas has received the Buchanan Award this year. She will use the funding to contribute to broadening her horticultural experience in the UK and USA.
- Trustees report
The Trustees report had been circulated with other AGM reports as part of the newsletter. Dianne Glenn as president of the Trustees drew attention to the fact that last year's report had noted the urgency of setting up a sustainable model for the continuation of Sculpture in the Gardens. She was pleased to note that this had now been achieved. The membership of the Trustees will remain the same but Irene Horton, the Friends administrator, will become the secretary.
- Election of officers and committee members
The list of nominations was shown on the whiteboard. There were no nominations from the floor.

President	Dianne Glenn (nominated Liz Powell/Laure Lamason)
Past President	Bill Burrill
Vice President	Liz Powell
Treasurer	Judy Williams
Secretary	Laure Lamason

- Moved that the nominated officers be accepted - Dianne Glenn/Sue Davison – Carried

Committee	Ross Ferguson, Heather Hine, Kate Moodie, Graeme Hauer, Viv Canham (new member)
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- Moved that the nominated committee members be accepted - Dianne Glenn/David Glenn – Carried
- Election of Trustees
Moved that the current members as listed continue as trustees - Dianne Glenn/Terry Becher – Carried

- Gardens Report
Jack Hobbs presented his report from the floor, giving an overview of the numerous and noteworthy activities that the Gardens had been involved in from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. The new carpark and the Pacific Pathway have been two of the major capital developments that have demanded time and attention and will be hugely beneficial new assets once completed.

Jack reserved special praise for Ross Ferguson for his production and management of the Gardens newsletter. Moved that the Gardens report be accepted - Viv Canham/Glennis Sibun – Carried

- General Business
There was no general business

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm

Signed as a true and correct record

Date

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Trustees AGM Report, 2019

The role of the Trustees of the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens (Inc.) is to determine the overall policy and be responsible for the finances of the Society. They must approve any expenditure over \$15,000.00. The management of the Dingley Bequest is one of its financial responsibilities.

The Board of the Trustees comprises

- the Friends President (Chair) and Treasurer
- two Society representatives

elected at the AGM

- two Council representatives
- up to two members co-opted by the Trustees
- the Manager of the Gardens.

The members of the Trust for 2018-19 have been Dianne Glenn (Chair), Judy Williams (Treasurer), Bill Burrill and Graeme Hauer (representatives of the Friends), and Barbara Myron (co-opted by the Friend Trustees). The two Auckland Council representatives have been Cr. Daniel Newman and

Manurewa Local Board Member Stella Cattle. The Manager of the Gardens Jack Hobbs has served on the Trust and the Secretary of the Trust has been Irene Horton.

The Friends Executive has sought approval of expenditure twice this year – once for the \$50,000 contribution made by the Friends to the 2019-20 Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition and recently to purchase nine stone seats at \$3,200 each, to the total value of \$28,800, to install in the newly developed Pacific Pathway.

Two seats are intended to honour two Friends who have contributed hugely to the Auckland Botanic Gardens - Phil Jew, a previous longstanding Director of Auckland Regional Parks, who was involved with the development of the Auckland Botanic Gardens and honoured as a long term supporter, and Joan Dingley who bequeathed money (now to the value of \$603,865) to the Friends to use the interest to benefit the Library, with the Friends being able to allocate funds for a purpose approved by the Trustees. In past years it was approved to use surplus funds to provide continuing financial support to Gardens staff to gain more knowledge and experience

to benefit the Gardens. The other seven seats have been purchased to sell to raise funds for the Friends to support programmes initiated for the benefit of the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

The Trustees have not physically met but have been kept informed through the minutes of the Friends Executive Committee and the Organising Committee of the SitG. There has been no strong movement in the structure and organisation of the Friends or the Executive and any payment from our investments has been stated in our monthly financial reports and the annual audited report.

I thank the Trustees for their continuing interest and service to the Friends. We appreciate their commitment and look forward to this over the next year. This year I will be standing down as President having completed a three year term, the maximum permitted as per the constitution. This means I will also not automatically be Chair of the Trustees but do wish to continue as a Trustee Representative of the Friends and will put myself forward for election.

Dianne Glenn ONZM JP – Chair.

Friends President's Report, 2019

This has been a year of consolidation of activities carried out by the Friends

Executive – our excitement of planning for the 2019-20 Sculpture

in the Gardens (SitG) has capped off a year of sustainability knowing that this and the next four exhibitions are at least risk to the Friends, having secured funding from the Auckland Council of \$200,000 per event, leaving the Friends to find the balance through donations, sponsorship and patronage. Again, the Friends donated \$50,000 from its own funds, as approved by the Trustees.

With the overall management of SitG being shared by the Gardens staff and the Friends in partnership, and with Kim Stretton continuing in the role as Event Manager, the Friends Executive has had fewer decisions to make. An Organising Committee of Jack Hobbs (Chair) and Micheline Newton (representing the Auckland Botanic Gardens), Dianne Glenn and Liz Powell (representing the Friends), and Kim, has been responsible for major decisions around the SitG, while the Advisory Committee which included the four curators (Rachel de Lambert, Linda Tyler, Brett Graham – outdoor exhibition, and Richard Mathieson – indoor exhibition) and Kim, have been very active choosing and managing the 20 sculptors/sculptures selected to exhibit outdoors. We are very grateful for the services provided by the engineering partners, Beca, Envivo, Structure Design and Airey Consultants Ltd, who are working with the sculptors to ensure that the artworks are safe and secure for public viewing and to meet Health and Safety regulations of the Gardens. This event has not yet opened, so more will be

reported next year. However, I wish to acknowledge the generous offer of the McConnell family to again fund the Supreme Award to be announced on the opening night of the 2019-20 Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition. The Friends can enjoy a preview 4.00-7.00 p.m. on 13 November.

The Buchanan Award last year was awarded to Pippa Lucas to travel in May/June of this year, to America for three weeks to volunteer at the Chanticleer Garden in Philadelphia and to visit New York Botanic Garden. This was followed by three weeks in England visiting significant gardens and on the flight back to New Zealand, she made a stopover in Singapore to visit the Gardens by the Bay. Because we amended the terms of the Buchanan Award, to a biennial award for a staff member to travel overseas to extend their knowledge of horticulture and bring back ideas to enrich the Botanic Gardens, this year we will be funding several staff members to attend the BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand) Conference held in Wellington in October. The recipient of the Award two prior to Pippa was Bec Stanley who had to change her first proposal when the course she was to attend at Kew Gardens was cancelled but the following year attended conferences and visited gardens in Europe. Bec will be guest speaker at the AGM in September.

The Friends contribute to the costs of staff attending other conferences and training opportunities to expand

their knowledge and to benefit the Gardens. Pippa Lucas and Andrea Wright were funded by the Friends to attend the New Zealand Gardens Trust Conference in April. Jack Hobbs and Bec Stanley were funded to meet the BGANZ Executive Gisborne in May to discuss seed banking, Botanic Gardens Conservation International accreditation, Young Horticulturist of the Year, and planning the BGANZ Conference. There is also funding available for research and special projects that meet the objects of the Society. The Friends funded the Wildflower Meadow Trial undertaken by Olivia Rooke-Devoy.

The Friends are very grateful for donations made this past year. We wish to acknowledge those who have contributed and those who have been honoured.

The first day of August saw the passing of Llew Summers, a truly dedicated supporter of the SitG exhibitions. Llew, sculptor of *Butterfly*, loved by so many, especially children, sited near Café Miko, will long be remembered by those associated with the Gardens. At present, we also have within the Gardens a second Llew Summers sculpture, *To the end of love*, depicting a dancing couple.

Late last year, the Friends were contacted by Pauline Clarke who wished to donate \$20,000 to be held and invested by the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, in memory of her close friend Shirley McLeavy. Horticultural staff at

Auckland Botanic Gardens and Eden Garden are eligible to apply for an award of \$1000 to contribute to the development of their career. Two awards – one to each Garden, may be awarded annually until the fund is depleted. A selection committee of three consider applicants who apply for financial assistance to attend a conference or seminar, for staff exchanges or tertiary learning. The first McLeavy Award was made to Sarah Collins, a gardener at Eden Garden, to attend the New Zealand Gardens Trust conference in Dunedin in Central Otago, in April.

With the passing of our previous Treasurer and Life Member Neville Haydon, the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Camellia Society honoured him with a donation of \$9000 to contribute to the Camellia Breeding Project Fund, which seeks to address the Camellia Blight disease, by developing and breeding plants that are resistant to the Blight. The Friends Executive chose to also contribute \$9000 to honour Neville. This year Olivia Rooke-Devoy carried out the camellia crosses as part of the breeding project.

The Friends Horticultural Library has benefitted from three donors. Val Bielecki donated some of Rod's library of horticultural books, a past member Josephine Edith Gamble, in her will, donated her garden and floral art books and residents of the USA, Bernice and David White donated US\$300 (NZ\$442.72) to purchase books for the library in honour of

their daughter-in-law's mother Renu Prasad who had lived close to the Gardens, visited frequently, was herself an avid gardener and Garden Award winner.

In July, the Fifth Season Garden Group made a donation of \$850.67 to the Friends following their final AGM as the Group closed down after decades of membership, one of the founders being the late Brian Buchanan, former Superintendent of the Auckland Botanic Gardens. The donation was made in his honour.

In memory of Rod Bieleski, Val donated a garden seat to honour him. It is situated in the Camellia Gardens and was dedicated on 6 March, followed by a small gathering of friends to reminisce on his life journey.

A proposal put to the Friends Executive to honour two extremely valuable contributors to the Gardens, was agreed upon. The Friends made a decision to purchase nine stone seats to be installed permanently in the newly developed Pacific Pathway. One seat honours Joan Dingley who made a significant donation (at time of writing - recorded as worth \$603,865) to the Gardens, the interest of which is to benefit the Library with the Friends being able to allocate funds for a purpose approved by the Trustees. In years past it was approved to use surplus funds to provide continuing financial support to the Gardens staff to gain more knowledge and experience to benefit

the Gardens. The second seat honours Phil Jew, a previous longstanding Director of Regional Parks, who was involved with the development of the Auckland Botanical Gardens, has been a continuing benefactor of the Gardens, and was the instigator of the Friends; the other seven seats to be sold as a fundraiser to benefit the Gardens.

The Pacific Pathway was to benefit from the Friends Birthday Gifts for the past two years - \$10,000 each year to contribute to entrances to the Pathway. Manager Jack Hobbs, informed us in June that this funding would no longer be required and that along with the \$10,000 that we intended to donate this year, this means that there would be \$30,000 available for a significant purchase or contribution to benefit the Gardens. At time of writing this report, a decision had not been made.

We were unable to continue the Photographic Competition during 2019, as following the retirement from the Committee of Annette Toon, we have not been able to secure someone else to take on the role of promoting and managing the competition. The Rod Bieleski Cup for the Supreme Award- "overall best in competition" was won by Jiongxin Peng. The most promising Child/Teen Award was won by Alex McIntyre. We were grateful for the services of the judge – Pauline Smith. We are still looking for a co-ordinator and keen to hear of someone with this expertise.

Unfortunately we had difficulties with the management of the Friends website, we initially contracted Kate McGee who worked in the Visitor Centre and managed the Gardens website, to continue to develop our one but finally we decided to close down ours and transfer to the Gardens website with a link to our pages. This meant we also had to change the email addresses that had been connected to the server we had been using, but this affected only the ones used by the Friends administrator and treasurer. We thank Kate for assisting the Friends and congratulate her on the birth of her daughter Maeve. Our web pages are now managed by Greg Moylan with an overview by Laure Lamason.

In April the Friends made a submission to the Manurewa Local Board concerning its Greenway Network, to oppose the proposed Express Path – Open Space route through the Auckland Botanic Gardens. We reminded the Board that Botanic Gardens are places for restful and safe respite so including a cycleway through the heart of the Gardens would severely compromise this experience. During our involvement with the Botanic Gardens Master Plan preparation, discussion was centred on how to slow people down on the pathway network to encourage them to connect to plants, gardens and nature. Visitors to the Gardens are not on the alert for bicycles – it is a significant issue with the Friends, that cyclists pose great dangers to walkers of all ages. There are many

children visiting the Gardens and they run freely with great excitement where there is freedom from traffic. There are signs at each entrance to the Gardens that cycles are not permitted. Other options are being considered for the Greenway Network.

In April the Friends Executive celebrated our partnership with the Gardens staff and provided them with a morning tea in the Logan Campbell building – this is always a great opportunity to meet the staff who we seldom see or hear about but do a fantastic job in the Gardens. In July we held our Annual Soup Day as a treat and thank you to our Friends for their continuing support for the Gardens, the Friends Executive supplying a range of tasty soups and snacks. It was a most magnificent day – blue sky and sunshine in contrast to the one last year when it poured with rain. Jack Hobbs complemented the day with a presentation of his cruise up the West Coast of Australia, illustrated with his wonderful photography of wild flora and fauna.

To round off this, my last Annual Report as President, I acknowledge each of the Executive Committee and thank them for their dedication and attendance at monthly meetings to undertake the business of the Friends. Life Member Liz Powell has served again as Vice President, and undertakes many roles – including as a volunteer on the Library Committee, as Reporter receiving

correspondence from other Gardens and associated horticultural societies and as caterer of nibbles at various functions. This year she again organised the Soup Day with great success. Laure Lamason has served as Secretary, sending flowers, cards and messages on behalf of the Friends and has assisted in reassigning the website, and Life Member Bill Burrill has continued as Immediate Past President with a word of wisdom on occasions. Ross Ferguson has taken on the role of Editor of the quarterly newsletter The Auckland Garden and continues to serve as a volunteer on the Library Committee. Kate Moodie leads and represents the Wiri Rambler Team which unfortunately has had more time in the garage than touring, owing to the construction of the secondary car park and then the Pacific Pathway, but she has kept her team busy with maintenance and training new drivers and guides. Kate has relieved Liz in the role of organising the two annual bus trips for the Friends and to organise catering when required. Heather Hine works as a volunteer in the Gardens and Graeme Hauer has relinquished the Growing Friends to Bronwen Rowse. Viv Canham joined the Executive at the last AGM and immediately became our Health and Safety (H&S) Officer, undertaking H&S training and working with the Gardens staff where required on behalf of the Friends, then joining Kate to gain St. John's First Aid Certificates. Our newest member Linda Christie was co-opted to be mentored by Judy Williams who has decided it is time to retire

as Treasurer of the Friends. Judy became Treasurer on the retirement of Neville Haydon, brought us into the electronic age, has been the most reliable stalwart and guardian of the Friends funds and produces reports easily understood by all, guiding us through the difficult period of the financial management of the previous Sculpture in the Gardens (2017-18). We regret that she is retiring but understand that she has many pleasurable activities waiting for her to enjoy. We wish her well and trust she will continue to be a Friend, even as a volunteer in the rose gardens. Graeme has also indicated his retirement from the Committee – we thank him for his many years serving the Friends as President and leading the Growing Friends.

Irene Horton has served as Administrator for almost two years with great efficiency and reliability and Jack Hobbs has represented the Management of the Gardens and its staff with valuable input to the Executive Meetings, bringing us news of activities within the Gardens as well as Auckland Council. Stella Cattle has represented Manurewa Local Board where she has been serving as Deputy Chair, and recently organising meetings with Council Communication staff to promote Friends and Gardens activities to the local and wider Auckland residents. We understand Stella is not seeking re-election in October, instead seeking some time for rest and recreation after many years of public service. We wish her well.

Lastly, as I step down after three years of Presidency, I can look back and reminisce on progress we have made in professional development and achievements we have made, especially in taking on the total management of the 2017-18 Sculpture in the Gardens. If we had not done this, I believe we would have lost the momentum and the continuation of a wonderful first class sculpture exhibition – free to the public. It was at significant financial risk but nevertheless, with support of the Friends Executive at the time “we knocked the b-----d off”. Thank you to all my supporting Executive Members throughout my term – well done.

Dianne Glenn ONZM JP



Auckland Botanic Gardens Annual Report 2018/2019

This annual report covers Botanic Gardens activities
from 1 July 2018 until 30 June 2019.

Visitation

Annual visitation exceeded 1 million for the first time, with 1,179,710 visits recorded, an increase of 25.1%.

Engagement

The Gardens website received 152,986 sessions, an increase of 18% on last year.

Gardeners of the Galaxy educational exhibition opened on 1 December 2018 and ran until 10 March 2019. The objective of this exhibition was to highlight the importance of plants for life told through space travel.

It was based on NASA research that found humans cannot exist in space for long periods without plants. The visitor centre Huakaiwaka featured a crashed rocket constructed by the Manukau Beautification Trust Boomer Business Programme. The Kids' Area was transformed into an international space station with videos of plants growing in space and a NASA app (SSI Plants) that includes how to grow plants in space. MOTAT installed an outreach module containing two activities for children. A solar system trail led people from the visitor centre to the Potter Children's Garden where

a space-themed edible garden was installed.

The Stardome Observatory and Planetarium delivered joint engagement programmes in January. The Auckland Astronomical Society provided evening star gazing events. Key partners in the display were the Manukau Beautification Charitable Trust, MOTAT, the Stardome Observatory & Planetarium, Auckland Astronomical Society and Hyalite who installed the hydroponic system.

Plants

Myrtle rust was detected on a *Lophomyrtus* at the Gardens in July 2018. It was also discovered on a *Metrosideros excelsa* 'Vibrance' opposite the nursery Herb Garden gate in April 2019.

Nursery

60,980 native plants were despatched from the Gardens nursery for revegetation in Regional Parks. 50,000 were in planter bags and quick cells and the other 10,980 were despatched in tubes for the volunteer nurseries in regional parks to bag on. Fourteen Regional Parks received the plants and one local park (Totara Park). The same target has been set for 2020.

New Carpark

The overflow carpark opened in August 2018. (Work commenced on Wednesday 7 February 2018). Staff began planting the garden beds, swales and rain gardens on Thursday 16 August and Friday 17 August.

The Pacific Pathway

Construction of the Pacific Pathway commenced in late October 2018. The contract was awarded to Seger who had constructed the new carpark.

Placement of rocks in nodes 3 and 4 commenced in February 2019 and pohutukawa trees were transplanted. Two large *Metrosideros excelsa* 'Titirangi' were transplanted from the grove near Pohutukawa Walk into Node 4, and three assorted pohutukawa cultivars from the open ground area were also transplanted into Node 4. Another five pohutukawa cultivars were transplanted from the Open Ground area into Node 3.

Weeds were allowed to germinate in the new Pacific Pathway garden beds before spraying with herbicide in early May. Mulch was then spread on most of the garden beds. On Friday 17 May two large pohutukawa trees were transplanted, one into the Wedding Garden and the other into Node 2.

Staff began planting the garden beds on 5 June. Trees were planted first, mainly pohutukawa and Chatham Island nikau, the two signature trees that will impart a "Pacific" flavour to the finished pathway. The pohutukawa are all selections made by Graeme Platt for superior ornamental qualities. Support plantings include divaricating species such as *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, *Coprosma virescens*, *C. rhamnoides*, and *Astelia chathamica* 'Silver Spear'.



New pathways through the Perennial Gardens and Native Plant Ideas

In June confirmation was received that the Pacific Pathway would be extended from Urban Trees to the Rose Garden. These works were expected to be completed by August 2019.

Assets

New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) stormwater treatment pond was constructed in the north-western corner of the Gardens.

Replacement of the “bridge” entrance into the visitor centre commenced in September. The main entrance was closed for several weeks while works were completed.

Replacement of lighting and CCTV cameras in the main carpark commenced in May with completion in July. One extra camera was installed. The new lights are LED

which are brighter and less costly to run. The new lighting system will provide brighter more consistent coverage with fewer blind spots.

In June new bollards were installed by the Logan Campbell Building, replacing the electronic swing gate.

Other notable projects completed were:

- underground services mapping;
- Children’s Garden renewal of structures and water features;
- perennial retaining wall construction;
- two new pathways in the Camellia Garden.

Sculpture in the Gardens

Following strong community and political support Auckland Council included \$1 million in the Long Term Plan (LTP) for Sculpture in the

Gardens. \$50,000 funding is allocated in alternate years and \$150,000 in the year of each exhibition over the next 10 years.

Sculpture in the Gardens artists' day took place on Wednesday 3 April, with 18 of the 20 selected artists on site.

Events

Eye on Nature school days took place on 26, 27 & 28 March with over 2600 students attending. They were taken through the Puhinui Forest under the theme of "Healthy trees, healthy me". The family day on 30 March was enjoyed by 9000 attendees. It was a collaboration of community groups, all ages of school children and the Manukau Beautification Trust who provided fun games based on environmental themes. The Schools Botanical Art competition entries were displayed in the visitor centre for the month of April and proved very popular with visitors.

Elvis in the Gardens celebrated 10 years since the first concert at the Bombay Rugby Grounds. The event took place on 3 March with 11,800 attendees and was a day of colour, costume and non-stop music from world-renowned tribute artists and concert band.

Activities were run throughout each of the school holidays with a wide range of plant themes. It was again a popular programme with great feedback from families who attended.

Education

6,671 school children participated in Learning through Experience programmes over the year. This was a reduction on the 7,737 who attended the programmes last year. The Education programmes are delivered in partnership with the Sustainable Schools Advisors and their roles have altered so the capacity to offer taught sessions throughout the week was reduced. Additional Educators are now in place to ensure future capacity can return to previous levels.

Ten sessions of "Little Sprouts" were delivered to under-5-year olds in the Library. Average attendance was about 20.

Eleven "Drop n Learn" workshops were run by Gardens staff covering garden design and planning, plant maintenance and propagation. They were once again very popular.

Conservation

The Gardens have been working in partnership with Northland Iwi Te Roroa to rescue a critically endangered native plant. The wild population of *Pimelea eremitica* has reduced to just 5 plants in its wild habitat on the cliffs of Maunganui Bluff. This is down from 80 plants when surveyed in 2010 owing to a goat entering a fenced-off area then being unable to escape. The nursery has successfully propagated cuttings and representatives from Te Roroa inspected the plants and were pleased with the progress made.

The Gardens also worked with Ngati Kuri, Muriwhenua Inc and DOC on *Metrosideros bartlettii*. Only 12 individual plants remained in the wild and the Gardens have a few individuals to conserve on behalf of Ngati Kuri and Muriwhenua Inc.

The Gardens have collected a number of species from the wild or that have provenance information including *Agathis australis*, *Pimelea orthia*, *Ripogonum* aff. *scandens*, *Ileostylus micranthus*, *Metrosideros parkinsonii* and *Austroderia splendens*. Most have not yet been planted in the gardens as they were received as seed.

The Gardens have been learning how to propagate *Metrosideros parkinsonii*, a species with an unusual distribution in New Zealand. Material the Gardens received came from the Denniston Plateau.

Research

The meadows project re-commenced in March with a new student, Olivia Rooke-Devoy, making two visits with Bruce Burns and continuing the mowing regime.

The Gardens staff published several papers in the *New Zealand Garden Journal*.

On 20 November the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation, Megan Woods, announced in Huakwaiwaka a new research fund of nearly \$14 million to be spent over three years to investigate how to stop

kauri dieback and myrtle rust.

In early 2019 Olivia Rooke-Devoy submitted her honours thesis on the meadows trial work at the Gardens. This research showed that different rates of mowing can change the plant composition of a meadow.

Olivia Rooke-Devoy and her sister, Tamsin Rooke-Devoy, jointly undertook pollination of camellias as part of the Haydon Fund Award project to produce hybrids resistant to petal blight.

Conferences

Bec Stanley attended the BGANZ executive meeting.

Bec Stanley received an award from BGANZ to attend the 12th Australian Threatened Plant Conservation Conference in Canberra from 12 to 15 November.

Emma Bodley attended BGANZ Australia meeting and Australian Network for Plant Conservation conference in November. At both conferences she gave a talk entitled "Responding to the dreaded myrtle rust: a New Zealand botanic gardens perspective".

In April Pippa Lucas and Andrea Wright attended the New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT) conference in Central Otago.

Shelley Small attended the Interpretation conference in Dunedin in September 2018.

Bec Stanley and Jack Hobbs attended a meeting of the BGANZ executive in Gisborne on 16 and 17 May. Costs were met by the Friends. Agenda items included seed banking, Botanic Gardens Conservation International accreditation, Young Horticulturist of the Year and planning for the BGANZ conference in Wellington in October. On 17 May a Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) was planted at Gisborne Botanic Gardens with the Mayor Meng Foon.

Staff

In February the Gardens received approval from Council for an additional gardener position. One of our horticultural apprentices, Scott Denham, was appointed to the new gardener role.

In April Sabian Pivac commenced work as replacement Visitor Services representative for Nicky Gordon who retired.

In May Greg Moylan commenced in the Special Projects Officer as replacement for Kate McGee.

In late June Kerry Gillbanks resigned from her collection curator role after 15 years of service. Her last day was Wednesday 17 July.

In November Pauline Clarke approached the Gardens and Eden Garden with an offer to donate funds to support developing horticulturists. Pauline asked for it be named the McLeavy Award in memory of her late friend Shirley McLeavy. It was

agreed staff at the Gardens and Eden Garden would be eligible. The first recipient was Sarah Collins of Eden Garden who attended the NZ Gardens Trust conference in Central Otago in April.

Volunteers

We were saddened by the death of Neville Haydon in March 2019. Neville was the main contributor of plants and expertise to the Camellia Garden since its inception. He is remembered by the Haydon Pavilion and Haydon Fund which supports the development of camellia hybrids resistant to petal blight.

We have over 100 volunteers who contributed 5880 hours to the Gardens over the year. Wiri Rambler hours were reduced owing to the closure of their main route due to construction of the Pacific Pathway.

Volunteer groups include the roving team (574 hours), Herbs and Edibles (243 hours), nursery team (558 hours), rose dead-heading team (127 hours), Growing Friends (1819 hours), Wiri Rambler team (10 hours), visitor centre volunteers (281 hours), Depot volunteers (288 hours), Research (16 hours), library volunteers (893 hours) and other (772 hours). Volunteers worked hard and contributed a significant amount to the Gardens during this period.

Other

The Swedish Ambassador Par Ahlberger visited the Gardens in September to discuss Daniel

Solander, the Swedish botanist who visited New Zealand with Captain James Cook and Joseph Banks in 1769. He is particularly interested in how Solander's contribution will be recognised in 2019 when the 250th anniversary of their visit is

commemorated.

The Growing Friends attended the Ayrilies Plant Fair in April. It attracted 800 visitors on the Friday and 600 on Saturday.

Jack Hobbs

Growing Friends AGM Report

This has been my first year leading the Growing Friends. We have had a great year despite having no access or sales for part of the winter. We have exceeded our budget target. The staff of the nursery and the gardens have all been more than willing to help by sharing their knowledge, plants and expertise, thank you very much to all of them.

Highlights of our year have been:

- the outdoor perennial sale last winter;
- great Ayrilies Sale days;
- May Sunday sale was huge.

My thanks go to all the people in the Growing Friends team for their spirit and their involvement.

Bronwen Rowse

Soup Day, 7 July 2019

A happy and relaxed group of members and friends met on a sunny Sunday to enjoy this year's Soup Day. A selection of delicious soups was provided by Committee members and this year we had the special treat of some home baking and truffles to round off the meal.

Jack Hobbs gave a fascinating presentation – and lots of photos – of the tour by sea he led up the west coast of Australia and down the red centre on the train. So much amazing flora, fauna (and people!)

and landscape features that few of us will have experienced.

Warm thanks to the Committee members who provided the soups, cut and buttered and sliced and prepared the tables for the lunch – then cleaned up afterwards - and to those Friends who attended another successful day

Liz Powell

And a special thanks to Liz who was the coordinator and organiser.

Wiri Rambler AGM Report, 2019

The Wiri Rambler has spent the last eighteen months tucked away in the Nursery Building because of all the major construction work. We are planning to be operating again when the Pacific Pathway is completed – we hope by Labour Weekend. Our new route through the Perennial Garden, the Native Ideas area and the Urban Trees with the outlook by the lake gives a more interesting and enjoyable trip for our passengers.

The team members have been eagerly waiting to start again. We have lost a few members but have

been able to replace them so will be able to operate on Saturdays, Sundays and most Public Holidays. With this year having the Sculpture in the Gardens we are expecting to be busy. The drivers have a training course organised for them and guides will have new notes.

All of our team are volunteers and I would like to thank them for their patience and loyalty over the last eighteen months and the time they give to working on the Rambler.

Kate Moodie.

Library Management Group Report 2018/2019

We held our annual library volunteer morning tea on 10 April 2019. We had an excellent turn out where there were updates about the library, a chance to catch up with each other and a special talk from Ross Ferguson about the rare book cabinet items.

In September 2018 we trialled our first session of Little Sprouts, a programme for children under 5 to come along to the library with a parent or caregiver and learn about nature and the environment. The programme is similar to the Wriggle and Rhyme programme run at public libraries but with our own twist to connect it to the Gardens. The

sessions were hugely successful with about 25 children attending the monthly sessions. Sessions were run by Sarah Robinson from Little Ferns. We have had one every month since it began and will be continuing them as they have proved successful and valuable to those families that come along.

Five volunteers joined the library over the last year to fill gaps in the roster and replace volunteers who retired from the library. Thank you to all our volunteers who have given their time to the library.

The wonderful Auckland Libraries

team has helped us to complete cataloguing of the books in the rare books cabinet. One of their staff spent one day a week for about six weeks in the library.

We received a few book donations over the last year which have been added to the library catalogue. These

are listed in the President's Annual Report. The book sale shelf has been stocked throughout the year with excess donations that were duplicates. \$220 was also raised by the sale of duplicate books from a donation by Val Bieleski.

Emma Bodley

Books purchased in 2018/2019

Book Title	Author
A tapestry garden	Ernie O'Byrne
Cabbage: a global history	Meg Muckenhoupt
Captain Cook and the Pacific	McAleer and Rigby
Dahlias: beautiful varieties for home and garden	Naomi Slade
Flourish: New Zealand women and their extraordinary gardens	Nicholas and Rogers
Forgotten footprints	Lyn Sturm
Gardenista	Slatalla and Williams
James Cook: the voyages	Frame and Walker
Meconopsis for gardeners	C. Grey-Wilson
Navigators and naturalists	Michael Lee
New Zealand lichens	Bill and Nancy Malcolm
Plant conservation: science and practice	Blackmore and Oldfield
Plants that kill	Dauncey and Larsson
RHS How to garden when you're new to gardening	RHS
RHS The secrets of great botanists: and what they teach us about gardening	Matthew Biggs
Sunflowers	Stephen Harris
The book of seeds	Paul Smith
The moss genus <i>Fissidens</i> in New Zealand	Beaver and Malcolm
The secret gardeners	Summerley and Thomas
Treasures of Tāne: plants of Ngāi Tahu	Rob Tipa
Trees in art	C. Watkins
Two men went to mow	Clive Thorogood

Jack's update

Work on the Pacific Pathway is finally coming to an end, with completion of the final section to the Rose Garden entrance expected by early September. It has been a wonderful project to be involved with despite all the disruption and inconvenience it has caused. We have developed a great working relationship with the contractors, Seger Construction, and will miss having them around the place. However, it will be wonderful to regain the large tract of land traversed by the pathway which has felt as though it belongs to someone else for almost a year.

We still have some plantings to complete, definitely the fun part of the project. Once the gardens have matured, we expect the pathway and adjacent landscape will provide much pleasure to our visitors as well as improving wayfinding.

Although a smaller project, the new carpark lighting is another significant improvement with the LED lights providing much improved lighting. Hopefully the new security cameras will dissuade thieves from breaking into parked vehicles.

The Gardens' Renton Campbell (far left) and Jack Hobbs (far right) celebrate with the Seger Construction team Nick Pearson, Steve Wetini, Shiva Dubey, Rizzo Nigro and Michael Chu.



Recently our old covered courtyards west of the visitor centre were demolished. The original courtyard was constructed in 1990 to provide shelter for customers at the food kiosk. A few years later, another was constructed for horticultural shows and to provide a sheltered quiet space for visitors. The covered courtyards have hosted many excellent events and exhibitions over the years, as well as many functions such as wedding receptions. However, they were no longer fit for purpose and will be replaced with a more suitable venue in the next few years.

Recently we said farewell to Kerry Gillbanks who finished as a collection

curator on Wednesday 17 July after 15 years of service. We wish her well in her new role teaching and looking after a school garden in Otara.

As we approach spring there is much to anticipate. Elsewhere in this newsletter Julia Watson writes about our upcoming exhibition *Epic Voyages*. Mich describes our new initiative to engage more effectively people with our plants and gardens. Sculpture in the Gardens returns for its seventh edition on 16 November with 20 sculptures by some of our leading artists. Our magnolias are looking fabulous, and tui are abundant amongst our spring blossoms. Enjoy!

Jack Hobbs

Membership subscriptions

There are still a number of outstanding subscriptions for the 2019/20 financial year. Notices for these were included in the June Newsletter and we rely on members to pay within a reasonable time. If your subscription is outstanding and you wish to renew, please pay this promptly. Members not currently financial in November will be considered to have resigned and this will be your last Newsletter.

Subscriptions may 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.

Book it in!

- The Friends AGM is on Saturday 28 September. See page 3 and the booking slip enclosed for details.

- The Friends Sculpture in the Gardens Preview is on Wednesday 13 November. RSVPs essential. See page 28 for details.

Visitor Services updates

“Plants for Auckland” is Live

A new family of brochures entitled “Plants for Auckland” has been produced based on over 30 years of knowledge accumulated from plant trials and research here at the Gardens. They provide plant recommendations and basic growing tips on a wide variety of topics such as “Best fruit trees for Auckland” and “Best hydrangeas for Auckland”. You can also download a copy of the brochures from the “Garden Advice” section of our website or simply pick up leaflets from the visitor centre.

For more detailed information about our recommended plants check out the “Plants for Auckland” database on our website. This is all available to view on your smart phone or computer.

To accompany this website and garden advice launch we have also added some great garden advice to help you develop a fabulous garden without using pesticides. Go to www.aucklandbotanicgardens for more information.

Micheline Newton

Epic Voyages

This September and October come and visit our *Epic Voyages* exhibition which showcases the plants used in Polynesian voyaging (and occurring at the same time as the commemoration of 250 years since Captain Cook landed in New Zealand).

The first people to discover, settle and garden in Aotearoa New Zealand arrived here after incredible voyages over the Pacific Ocean. In *Epic Voyages* you can discover how these Maori ancestors carved waka hourua, double hulled canoes, from trees; how their sails were woven from leaf fibres; how they arrived laden with

new plants for a new land. Then step out into the gardens to see some of these plants for yourself and explore our *Epic Voyages* garden trail.

During *Epic Voyages*, we will also be exhibiting *Paradise Lost – Daniel Solander’s Legacy*. This is a traveling group exhibition commemorating the contribution naturalist Daniel Solander made to New Zealand’s history. The ten artists selected each bring a unique vision to this historical event and collectively highlight many of Daniel Solander’s facets, not least of which are his scientific credentials in botany, his cross-cultural awareness and his passion for the preservation of the unique species of the natural world.

Friends Painting Group

As I write this, at the beginning of August, we are in the middle of our annual art exhibition and by the time you read this it will be over. I hope you managed to get to see it and enjoyed the lovely artwork on display.

Our exhibition was earlier this year, to fit in with the program of events at the Gardens to commemorate the 250th anniversary of botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander who arrived on the *Endeavour*, captained by James Cook. They saw for the first time our native plants, taking many specimens back to Europe.

The exhibition, *In Memory of Banks and Solander* was on for 6 weeks, longer than our usual 2 week/3 weekend slot and this allowed many more people to view the work by our members, from beginners

to professional artists. We were delighted that a few Auckland-based artists who exhibited in the Botanical Art Worldwide exhibition last year accepted our invitation to exhibit with us too.

Our monthly meetings continue, and we are looking forward to having landscape artist Bernadette Parsons demonstrate her watercolour landscape technique on Saturday, 26 October. Check out her website - www.bernadetteparsons.com

Our final meeting of the year will be on Saturday, 30 November. We will be having our usual shared morning tea and spend time chatting and reminiscing about another great year. If you would like to hear more about our group, please come along to one of our meetings - we would love to see you!

Happy painting,
Lesley Alexander

Friends Painting Group Exhibition Committee, Lesley Alexander, Sandra Morris and Liz Powell



Upcoming events

Friends Visiting Artist Brenda Hart, Jeweller

A reminder to those of you who have not yet had a chance to enjoy this year's Friends Visiting Artist, Brenda Hart's exquisite work on display in the Visitor Centre gallery. Brenda's work will be on display until the end of October, and Brenda is in the gallery on the weekends demonstrating just how she creates her lovely pieces. So... don't miss and visit soon – this could provide a solution to all your Christmas gift needs!



Epic Voyages exhibition

This exhibition sails into the Visitor Centre for September and October. See page 25 for more details.

Growing Friends

Visit the Growing Friends' plant sales to buy from our interesting selection of perennials, salvias, edibles, succulents, shade loving and native plants. This month we have extra-large planter bags of hardy ground covers - *Rubus barkeri*, *R. pentalobus*, *Ajuga* 'Chocolate Chip'. Or plant a golden flowered kowhai to attract birds and bees, all \$8. For hardy hedging, or as specimen shrubs, choose from our coprosmas, e.g., *Coprosma* 'Beatson's Brown' or *C. repens* 'Winter Wine', \$6 each.

The Growing Friends nursery is open to the public for plant sales every Thursday morning 8.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon. Monthly Sunday sales recommence on Sunday 1 September 9 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Look for the blue flags past the Herb Garden. Please bring your own bags to carry your smaller purchases. We'll deliver wheelbarrow loads to your car. Arrangements have been made to have the lower carpark open to the public at our sale times. This means it will be a shorter walk, and mostly downhill to get purchases to your car. Note that cars are not permitted to enter the nursery area at all.

Friends Spring Bus Trip

Heading north, we are visiting two outstanding New Zealand Gardens Trust gardens, both classified as Gardens of National Significance:

- The Paddocks at Warkworth is a very colourful 2-acre garden. The David Austin roses should be at their best.
- Omaio at Takatu Peninsula is a very tranquil, green, coastal garden of 18 acres featuring a canopy of mature native trees and shade-loving plants.

Itinerary

- Saturday, 2 November
- 8.45 a.m. meet at Botanic Gardens
- Or**
- 9.15 a.m. meet at the Marewa Rd exit from the Countdown car park, Greenlane.
- 4.45 p.m. returning to the Botanic Gardens

The Bus Trip details

- The cost is \$45.00 which includes entry fee to both gardens.
- Before sending payment you must phone Kate Moodie to book your seat 09 2977234.
- You can pay by posting the enclosed slip with a cheque to Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, 102 Hill Rd, Manurewa 2015 or paying by cheque or eftpos at the Gardens. Please indicate your pick up-point.
- You can also pay online 12-3011-0757619-00 indicating bus trip and your name.
- Hot water and milk will be provided for lunch.
- Bring your mugs, teabags, food and extra drinks.
- Friends are welcome to bring a friend.
- Any queries, phone Kate Moodie 09 2977234 and remember to phone Kate to book your seat before you pay!

Sculpture in the Gardens Friends Preview

Members of the Friends of the Gardens are invited to this special preview of this summer's Sculpture in the Gardens. This will be held on Wednesday, 13 November, in the Visitor Centre at the Botanic Gardens, from 4.00 – 7.00 p.m. It will be a chance to meet some of the sculptors and the Curatorial Panel and have a tour of the works before the exhibition opens to the public. Wine, non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles will be served.

If you are attending, please RSVP either by phoning the Visitor Centre 09 267 1457 or by emailing friendsofabg@gmail.com before Wednesday, 30 October. Friends members only.

Please advise if mobility assistance is required for the two kilometre trail as this can be provided.

Spring seasonal activities

The unpredictable spring weather makes garden work unpredictable. Despite the madness we enjoy observing tuis drunkenly crashing from their favourite spring-flowering tree to the next. Bulbs such as ixias, sparaxis, daffodils, hyacinths, gladioli and scillas always make us feel warm, as they remind us of the beauty of springtime.

At the Gardens we are attending to tasks around the Pacific Pathway such as planting, fertilising, weeding, and mulching to bring this site up to standard before the pathway is opened to the public. It is great to see new plantings growing well in the new beds.

In the Edible Garden we are harvesting winter vegetables and applying fresh compost and blood and bone mixed with fish fertiliser to ready the beds for summer vegetables. It is time to sow seed 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 now if they are ready. Direct sow coriander, carrots and broad beans.

Tomato 'Money' F1



Cut back frost-tender plants like *Canna*, *Heliotropium* and *Ageratum*, and remove dead leaves from *Alocasia* and *Colocasia* and other sensitive subtropicals once the threat of frost is over. Now is the perfect time to stake taller perennials and those that require support such as some *Alstroemeria*, asters, dahlias and lilies before new vigorous growth takes off. Add mulch to beds to help suppress weeds and retain moisture during summer.

Plant new roses in early in spring to help roots get established. Fertilise roses with a rose fertiliser or blood and bone with sheep pellets. Tie in new growth on climbers to keep them under control.

Prune camellias in late spring once

flowering is completed but before new growth begins. Aim for 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;
- remove or shorten laterals which are thickening into heavy branches to encourage good floral display;
- for a symmetrical look prune evenly around the whole plant.

Trim topiaries and hedges to maintain their shape and size and give them a dressing of general fertiliser. We use Pacific Biofert which is now available for sale at our visitor centre reception.

Mere Brewer

Camellia research update

Can we produce attractive, blight-resistant camellia cultivars?

As temperatures cool and the rains descend, one bright spot of colour in New Zealand's grey winters are the flowering camellias. Depending on the cultivar, camellia plants flower from late-autumn through to spring, producing stunning shows of blooms when the rest of the garden is dormant. Disappointingly, many attractive camellias suffer from camellia petal blight. This pathogen (*Ciborinia camelliae*)

was first recorded in a Wellington garden in 1993 and has now spread throughout the country. Camellia petal blight has an especially negative impact in Auckland owing to our humidity and rain, disrupting otherwise spectacular flower displays. Unfortunately, traditional control methods (such as fungicides) have proven ineffective. Therefore, the best option moving forward is to develop new, more disease-resistant camellia hybrids.

Building on previous research

conducted at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, I and students Tamsin Rooke-Devoy and Stuart Simmons have conducted a camellia survey and pollination trial from June to August this year. This research endeavours to produce new camellia hybrids that are both blight-resistant and have attractive combinations of colour, form and scent. This project has been kindly funded by the Neville Haydon Fund, which was established by the Friends of the Gardens and the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Camellia Society.

Previous camellia pollination efforts have had mixed success at the Gardens, producing few viable seeds. In previous years, flowers were emasculated (i.e., the anthers were cut off) to prevent selfing or wild pollination. However, this year we decided to prioritise the number of flowers pollinated and did not emasculate flowers in the hope that this will increase seed set. We have also learnt that best results are obtained when pollination is done on sunny, warm days. Blight-resistant

camellias have been used as female parents, such as *C. transnokoensis* and *C. lutchuensis*, which possess small, delicately-scented, single white flowers. Pollen donors included large-flowered reticulatas such as 'Dr Clifford Parks' and scented varieties, such as the hybrid 'Koto no Kaori' and *Camellia yunnanensis*. We were especially impressed by the red colour and pollen production of *C. japonica* 'Bob Hope'. We have also conducted a survey of camellias currently in flower at the Gardens, scoring each on the amount of pollen produced and the condition of the flowers. This information will be useful for future camellia breeding efforts.

Overall, this year's project efforts will contribute to longer-term attempts to develop attractive, disease-resistant camellia plants. In time, we hope to develop outstanding garden subjects and restore camellias to their rightful place as queens of the winter garden!

Olivia Rooke-Devoy

In memory of Llew

Llewelyn Mark Summers (1947-2019)

Big, bouncy bodies in movement were the signature motif deployed by Cantabrian sculptor Llew Summers. His 50 years of practice

resulted in 900 works, testimony to his dedication to making accessible figurative sculpture for the public. But his choice to depict many of his figures naked caused much controversy, particularly in conservative Christchurch. Despite

the harmless exuberance of his sculptures, some saw Llew as lewd.

Born into a Methodist family living in Tancred Street, Linwood, in Christchurch's eastern suburbs, he was the third child of seven produced by the tumultuous marriage of bookseller and art critic John Summers and his exceptionally principled wife Connie. Self-taught as an artist, he grew up immersed in culture and religion, but was intensely practical rather than intellectual. Spirituality informed many of his works, as did the idea that aesthetic pleasure was an important part of everyday life.

His parents provided a fertile formative environment: his tiny and fierce mother was the only woman in New Zealand sent to prison for pacifist beliefs during World War II. Connie often clashed with her husband who had left Whitcombe and Tombs to open John Summers Bookshop upstairs in Manchester Street in 1958. Above their fireplace hung a reproduction of Peter Paul Rubens' *The Rape of the Daughters of Leucippus* (1618) where plump naked female bodies tumble about in baroque fashion, losing their drapery. It is a dynamic riot of bright colour and flesh, with wild-eyed horses rearing above Castor and Pollux as they grab the women. It appears as a fixture in all photographs of this extraordinary household, flanked by the paintings the Summerses acquired from contemporary New Zealand artists

such as Colin McCahon, Toss Woollaston and Tony Fomison.

Recognising his son's interest in sculpture, John Summers presented him with books on the great French sculptor Aristide Maillol (1861-1944) whose classical nudes were an inspiration to carve rounded forms in stone. From the modern British sculptor Henry Moore (1898 -1986) Llew learned that sculpture should reflect its materials: marble had to look hard. He also learned that sculpture could cause a negative reaction: Moore's abstractions of human form scandalised some when shown at the Auckland Art Gallery in 1956, and a later exhibition of photographs and small bronzes toured by the British Council to Christchurch in 1965 also caused a sensation.

Another influential figure encountered in Llew's youth was the artist Tony Fomison (1939-1990) who had also gone to Linwood High School, and then gone on to study sculpture at the School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury from 1957 to 1960. Fomison frequented Summers' bookshop while he was at art school. Later, when he joined Roger Fyfe as Junior Assistant Ethnologist at Canterbury Museum in 1963, he invited Llew (whose ancestry was Ngāi Tahu) to come with him on a survey of Māori rock drawings at the Opihi River site in South Canterbury.

After this period in the hinterland with Fomison, Llew undertook a farm cadetship for four years until 1967, then returned to Christchurch and a position as a nurse aide at Sunnyside Mental Hospital for six months. He met and married his first wife Adrienne in 1969, and worked as a builder's labourer to provide for her and their two children, Kristin and Daniel. While farming, he had begun carving Oamaru stone, and showed his work to Fomison for critique. Fomison pointed out to his young friend the need for eyelids and other niceties to make for a convincing representation.

Two years later, aged just 24, Llew was a solo father when Adrienne left him to go and live in Australia. Fomison, now Exhibitions Officer at the Canterbury Society of Arts Gallery in Gloucester Street, selected 27 of Llew's works for a solo exhibition downstairs at the CSA in 1971. Upstairs in the Mair Gallery was another newly-graduated sculptor, Neil Dawson. Llew Summers the sculptor had arrived on the Christchurch art scene.

Six years later, helped by financial support provided by the Domestic Purposes Benefit, Llew was working full-time as a sculptor. He showed with Fomison at the Bosshard Gallery in Dunedin in 1976 and then again at Brooke/Gifford in Christchurch in 1979. Like his hero, Henry Moore, Llew used concrete as a medium but also carved in wood, always with a

figurative or representational form to convey movement and emotion. Small carvings such as *Sorrow II* (1977) in jarrah and *Wrestlers* (1982) in mahogany, were purchased for the civic collection of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery (now Christchurch Art Gallery) in 1983.

Large scale works were always his goal, and he had plenty of ideas but lacked the commissions or funding to realise them. He took the initiative and began literally taking his art to the people. His tactics included delivering a sculpture to a traffic island at a busy intersection and petitioning the Anglican Church to put his sculptures outside Christchurch Cathedral in the Square. An outdoor version of the *Wrestlers* made from red marble and concrete appeared in Hagley Park. Big, bold and confrontational, his public works like *Up and Over* (1992) on the Forbes Lawn at Lincoln University, express the joy of living and human relationships. They found their way into the hearts of many Cantabrians, but some people were shocked that these voluptuous nudes seemed to be popping up all over Christchurch. Critic David Brokenshire decried them as pneumatic atrocities in *The Press*.

After the 1998 death of his second wife, Rose Long, Llew received a Creative New Zealand travel grant to study sculpture in Europe. He returned with a passion for icons and religious statuary, and an awakened

interest in spirituality. Commissioned to make new Stations of the Cross for the centenary of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Barbadoes Street in 2005, he set to work on a series of plaques with nude figures. Alarmed by his well-endowed Christ figure, parishioners asked him to add a coyly arranged plaster loincloth to veil the offending genitals. Despite such prudish reactions to his work, he continued to rejoice in the potential of the nude to create empathy and convey his ideas about the universality of human experience.

Butterfly (2008), purchased for the permanent collection at Auckland Botanic Gardens comes out of his renewed interest in spirituality in this period. It depicts a ponytailed young woman raising one leg in dance with her arms flung behind her like wings, about to take flight. Angels are everywhere it seems to suggest, and releasing the energy within the body is one way to find them. This sculpture invokes Llew's often-quoted comment, "What's

important to me is to get a balance between the physical and the spiritual in life. We're given a soul and we're given a body. Sculpture provides a nice balance because works can be made which are deep and meaningful, but they require your physical body to produce them. Rather than just being clever or smart the work must have soul."

In 1996, the lyrics to Leonard Cohen's 1984 song "Dance Me to the End of Love", ironically inspired by the Holocaust, were published alongside paintings by Fauvist artist Henri Matisse (1869-1954). The combination of Matisse's images of wild abandon with Cohen's text was inspirational for Llew. He saw a parallel in one of his major themes: the continual dance of attraction between lovers, where two beings become one. After he had sculpted a couple dancing a tango out of a block of wood to give the form solidity, he scaled it up to two metres in size, and gave it the title *To the end of love*. It was included in the 2015/2016 iteration of Sculpture in the Gardens and has remained on site ever since.

Llew died at his home in Mount Pleasant of renal failure on 1 August 2019 at the age of 72. Both the house and the garden are a museum and archive of his lifetime of sculpting, and a wonderful memorial to his creative energy.

Linda Tyler, co-curator, Sculpture in the Gardens 2019-2020



Australian adventures

In early October last year, we departed for Adelaide to commence a three-week journey that encompassed some of the remarkable landscapes and biodiversity Australia has to offer. It included botanical hotspots in Western Australia, tropical Darwin and arid central Australia.

From Adelaide we took a cruise around Western Australia to Darwin, we bussed to Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks, then caught the Ghan back to Adelaide.

Western Australia has more than 10,000 recorded vascular plants, and Albany was a perfect place to start. Our first stop was at Frenchmans Bay, then onto Stony Hill, and lastly the Gap which was a real highlight with great sea views and abundant plant life.

Plants included lots of *Pimelea*, sticky tailflower (*Anthocercis viscosa*), the Albany woolly bush (*Adenanthos sericeus*), *Banksia praemorsa*, *Dampiera linearis*, *Clematis*, *Patersonia occidentalis*, *Drosera*, cowslip orchids (*Caladenia flava*) and *Kennedia coccinea*.

A couple of days later we arrived in Busselton, which has a population of 38,000, and receives 800 to 1,200 mm of rainfall annually, mostly in June and July. We booked a tour with

South West Eco Discoveries (info@southwestecodiscoveries.com.au), a small eco-tourism business run by brothers Ryan and Mick and they provided us with a wonderful experience. They told us jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) was logged locally and exported to England where it was used in the London Underground. The Busselton jetty was constructed from jarrah and is the second longest wooden piled jetty in the world at 2 kilometres.

From Busselton we drove to Cape Naturaliste, a 650-million-year-old granite cap with an abundance of wild plants. It is considered one of the most spectacular spots in the Margaret River Region, with the Indian Ocean on one side and bays on the other.

It was great to find the granite claw flower (*Calothamnus graniticus* subsp. *graniticus*), the floral emblem of Busselton. We also encountered numerous *Pimelea*, spider orchids (*Caladenia applanata*), cockies tongue (*Templetonia retusa*), *Backhousia citriodora*, Swan River myrtle (*Hypocalymma robustum*), lots of *Xanthorrhoea*, Rottneest Island tea tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) and *Darwinia citriodora*.

Margaret River is famous for its wine, and we also sampled chocolates and

olive oil products before returning to Busselton. On the drive back we stopped on the roadside to view masses of *Anigozanthos manglesii*.

Next stop was Fremantle, and on disembarking we set off immediately for Kings Park. This famous botanic garden is dedicated to native flora, and their spring displays were superb. It is almost a one-stop shop for Western Australian wildflowers. We viewed far too many spectacular plants to list them all, so I will restrain myself to just a few highlights such as the spectacular kangaroo paws *Anigozanthos manglesii*, *A. rufus*, *A. viridis* and the black kangaroo paw (*Macropidia fuliginosa*). Just as eye-catching were the many pimeleas, *Pimelea ferruginea*, *P. spectabilis* and *P. physodes*. The wax flower (*Chamelaucium ciliatum*) provided cool contrast amongst massed wildflowers, the spectacular *Prostanthera magnifica* caught everyone's attention, as did the intensely blue *Brachyscome iberidifolia* and the threatened *Darwinia carnea*.

In mid-October we arrived in Darwin and headed for Charles Darwin National Park, 48 hectares of savannah woodland. Woollybutt trees (*Eucalyptus miniata*) with black trunks for fire protection were prominent. We were told branches hollowed out by termites were used to make didgeridoos and that they originated in Darwin.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens features tropical plants from Northern Australia and around the world. Most spectacular was a large spreading poinciana (*Delonix regia*). I was particularly impressed by the extensive collection of baobabs that included *Adansonia digitata*, *A. grandidieri*, *A. perrieri* and *A. gregorii* from the Kimberley region. The cannonball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*) located near the entrance was quite a talking point.

Our two days in Kakadu National Park were fascinating. From the safety of riverboats we viewed lots of saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*), known colloquially as "salties". Most were resting on riverbanks, others ominously cruising in the water. In 1945 it was estimated there were 90,000 crocodiles, down to 3,000 by 1970. Numbers are now estimated to exceed 100,000.

There are more than 5,000 aboriginal art sites in Kakadu, the most prolific in Australia. The rock art of Ubirr tells stories of their land and culture, with small human figures common. Red ochre and animal blood were used.

Savannah woodlands comprising mainly *Eucalyptus* and grasses cover some 80% of Kakadu, and they support abundant wildlife with numerous crocodiles, abundant birdlife in wetlands and water courses, and of course lots of tropical plants. Unlike here in New Zealand the vast northern coastal wetlands

of Australia are still largely intact.

Kakadu National Park has 1,526 plant species. The main tree is paperbark (*Melaleuca*) of which we saw three species. The leaves of paperbarks were used to flavour cooking, the trunks to make canoes, water was extracted by cutting the burrs, and bark was used for plates, cups, mattresses, blankets, torches and to wrap newborn babies and the dead. The bark regrows after harvest.

We encountered three species of *Livistona*, the sand palm (*L. humilis*), the wispy fan palm (*L. inermis*) and Mataranka fan palm (*L. rigida*).

Lining the riverbanks were fresh water pandanus (*Pandanus aquaticus*) that aboriginals make paint brushes from by chewing the roots. *P. spiralis*, the screw palm, was used for tucker, medicine, as fuel for cooking, and the fruit has edible nuts.

Birdlife on the waterways is prolific, with magpie geese, azure kingfishers, sea eagles, snake necked darters, little pied cormorants, black-winged stilts, plumed whistling ducks, a comb crested jacana and purple swamp hens known to us as pukeko.

We also visited Litchfield National Park where the vegetation is mostly open woodland savannah with Darwin stringybarks (*Eucalyptus tetradonta*), and Darwin woollybutts (*E. miniata*), acacias, banksias,

grevilleas, *Pandanus*, sand palms and cycads. Trees were typically not large owing to growing mainly in rock with little or no topsoil.

The termite mounds were intriguing. Termite cathedrals are the largest, each mound apparently containing 2 million termites. Even more fascinating are the tall thin magnetic termite mounds that all face within 10° of north/south, the termites using magnetic fields to orientate the mounds. They are also known as tombstone mounds. Early pioneers used termite mounds to make floors, huts and also tennis courts.

The final stage of our journey was on the Ghan from Darwin back to Adelaide. Our train was 902 metres long, had 285 guests and 49 staff, and it was one of the best travel experiences I have had. But then I do like trains.

We had three stops, the first at Katherine where we took a guided cruise of Katherine Gorge. Next day we arrived at Alice Springs where we visited Alice Springs Desert Park. This is a great place to view and learn about the animals and plants that inhabit central Australian deserts. This included an outstanding demonstration of free-flying native birds such as Australian magpie, barn owl, Australian hobby falcon, whistling kite, black kite, black-breasted buzzard, white-necked heron and tawny frogmouth.



In the Woodland habitat were numerous plants adapted to the arid climate. Notable trees were desert bloodwood (*Eucalyptus deserticola*), deep-rooted box gums (*Eucalyptus normantonensis*), river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and ghost gums (*Corymbia aparrerinja*, with roots reaching depths of 100 metres).

Olive Pink Botanic Gardens is a 20-minute walk from Alice Springs, a tough slog in 40°C heat. However, it was all worthwhile when I stumbled across perhaps the most famous of all desert plants, Sturt's desert pea (*Swainsona formosa*).

Next day we arrived at Coober Pedy, the renowned opal-mining town and the driest place in Australia with just 130 mm annual rainfall.

Most of the locals live underground where temperatures are much cooler than the searing above-ground temperature which can reach 50°C.

The highlight was visiting Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park where the tenacity of plants is exemplified by the likes of mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and dead finish (*Acacia tetragonophylla*), tough gnarled shrubs or small trees that are perfectly adapted to survival in the desert.

Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) is a widespread shrub or small tree with needle-like leaves (actually phyllodes or flattened petioles) that are erect to minimise exposure to midday sun but capture the gentler morning and evening light. Precious rain is directed down the leaves and branches to the soil close to the trunk, effectively trebling the effective rainfall. The roots harbour nitrogen-fixing bacteria, and they penetrate deep into the soil to reach moisture. As with most wattles the seeds are edible and nutritious.

We were told that in the most severe of droughts, that last plant still alive will be dead finish (*Acacia tetragonophylla*). And that is the finish of my story.

Jack Hobbs



Clockwise
from top left:
Anigozanthos manglesii,
Caladenia flava cowslip orchid,
Prostanthera magnifica,
Pimelea spectabilis and
Darwinia carnea.



Acacia aneura Mulga Photo: Jack Hobbs



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