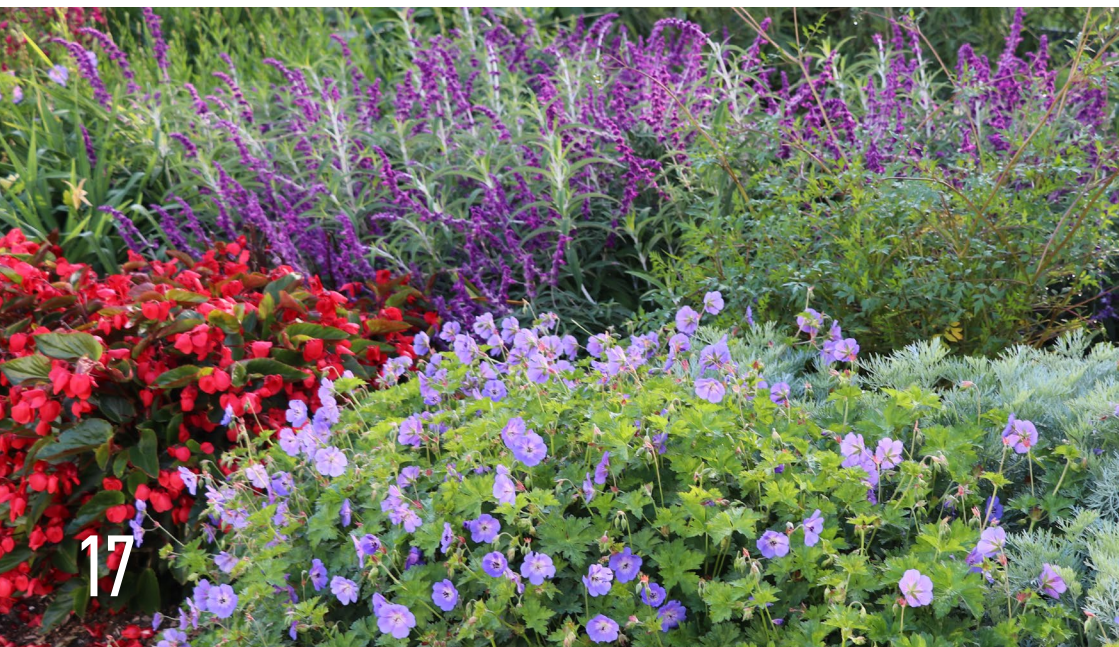


The Auckland Garden

Newsletter of the Auckland Botanic Gardens and Friends

December 2020





Contents

GARDENS NEWS

- 4 Jack's update
- 6 Visitor Services and volunteer updates

FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS

- 7 From the President
- 9 Friends Executive Committee
- 9 Friends Trustees
- 10 Life Membership - Dianne Glenn
- 11 Life Membership - Heather Hine
- 13 Growing Friends
- 13 Wiri Rambler
- 14 Photographic Competition
- 15 Friends Art Group
- 17 Friends spring bus trip

A FOCUS ON PLANTS

- 18 Seasonal activities
- 20 Edible Garden snippets
- 22 Sentinel network for roses
- 23 Controlling pests at the Gardens
- 24 Big year, big changes
- 25 Why gouache on black?
- 27 Naming plants - generic names
- 29 Naming plants - *Strelitzia reginae*

Auckland
Botanic Gardens
102 Hill Road,
Manurewa,
Auckland, 2105

.....

**Contributions to the
newsletter are welcome**
Material for the March 2021
issue should be submitted by
3 p.m. Friday 12 February
2021 to the Editor
ross.ferguson@
plantandfood.co.nz

.....

Images
Front cover:
*Nasturtium Tropaeolum
majus*. Copyright Sandra
Morris 2020.
Opposite page, top to
bottom: *Dianthus*, *Rosa*
Burgundy Iceberg, a visit
to Puriri Lane and Jack and
Sandra Hobbs' garden.

.....

© No part of the Newsletter may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in a form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, duplicating or otherwise without the prior written permission of the Editor and, where appropriate the owner of the copyright. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends, Auckland Botanic Gardens or of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Auckland Council. No responsibility is accepted for any damage or financial loss incurred by following any advice given in the Newsletter.

Jack's update

I will not miss 2020 when it ends, but I will certainly never forget it. A silver lining of COVID-19 has been the resurgence of interest in gardening which has seen plant sales reach unprecedented heights. Recently the owner of one large Auckland nursery told me turnover was up 40% and would be even higher if he had more stock. Visitation to the Gardens has also been heavy, with total visitation comparable to recent years despite two lockdowns.

Our plan is to help sustain and even grow this interest, and to become the hub for expert information on plants and gardens. To achieve this goal, we have been working on an engagement plan that focusses on ensuring our information and ideas are widely accessible. This includes reviewing garden presentation and signage, with our communications increasingly available on digital platforms.

The prolonged drought took a toll on both our plants and field staff who, until heavy downpours in early November, were irrigating new plantings with watering cans. An explosion of weeds has followed this rainfall but we are very happy to have received it.

The Edible Garden and Rose Garden have both recently undergone

significant renovation to make them even more appealing to the public. Elsewhere in this Newsletter Angela Anstis outlines the ideas being implemented to improve the Edible Garden, and Beau Timberland describes initiatives he has been leading in the Rose Garden.

Many of our gardens, including these two, depend heavily on volunteer support to ensure high quality presentation. We are extremely fortunate to have such a pool of dedicated and talented volunteers giving so generously of their time. We look forward to thanking you all at our annual Christmas celebration shortly.

It is great to see so many people visiting the gardens, especially when they are clearly here to enjoy the plants. This was, as usual, particularly noticeable during spring blossom time. Both our car parks were at capacity even on weekdays and we were almost swamped on weekends. As the last of the blossoms floated away they were quickly replaced by other botanical highlights. Recent highlights in the African Garden include numerous bulbs that have naturalized and require little attention. Strelitzias provide a subtropical flavour with their bold foliage and flamboyant flowers of orange and blue.

Strelitzia reginae 'Mandela's Gold' is an interesting yellow-flowered variant. I have also been impressed with *Leucospermum* 'Preciosa', a compact hybrid with masses of reddish-orange flowers that are great for picking.

We have decided to proceed next year as scheduled with Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition despite the uncertainty around Coronavirus and budget constraints. The exhibition will commence on 20 November 2021, and close on 6 March 2022.

There will be some new curators involved who we will introduce to you in a later Newsletter.

Despite this year's challenges it has still been successful for the Gardens. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback we get, our visitors love coming here. Next year we are hoping for more stable times and with the support of our Friends we aim to inspire even more visitors to appreciate plants and become active gardeners. Merry Christmas to you all!

Jack Hobbs

Leucospermum 'Preciosa'



Visitor Services and volunteer updates

Summer Edible Garden theme

This summer, enjoy an edible-garden-themed display in our Visitor Centre to coincide with the wonderful visiting artist, Jennifer Duval-Smith. Get ideas for your home garden in the Visitor Centre, and then head out into the Edible Garden and Herb Garden for more inspiration.

MOTAT will join with the edibles topic this summer, with their outreach module on site themed “Better, Smarter, Greener” – all about the future of gardening. The experience will consist of a module on our main lawn, dressed to resemble a small back yard, filled with a variety of simple, clever tips and tricks that can be used in any green space, and to inspire sustainability at home. The MOTAT experience will be supported with a variety of digital content hosted on the MOTAT.fun

platform, accessible online or via QR codes built into the module itself.

Volunteering end-of-year thank you

After a turbulent year it has been lovely to have a reprieve from lockdowns to enjoy seeing and interacting with volunteers here at the Gardens. While we may have spent a lot of time physically apart due to COVID-19, we have remained connected and our entire volunteer team is stronger than ever. We’ve had new volunteers join us, and long-standing volunteers continue their hard work and contributions despite the disruptions. I’d like to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to the Gardens and for everything you bring to us here at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy festive season.

Andrew Curry and Beau Timberland work alongside volunteer Laetitia Gaignier in the Rose Garden

Julia Watson



From the President

Thank you to all those members who attended the 2020 AGM on 31 October. The meeting was held later in the year than usual, having been postponed from the intended date in September owing to COVID-19.

The current Executive Committee was returned with no changes or additions as were the Trustees. There are vacancies remaining on the Committee which could be filled with co-opted members if the need arises. To have a full complement of members with a range of skills and interests would strengthen the work of the Committee.

We were delighted to present Life Memberships to Dianne Glenn and Heather Hine. Dianne is the current Past President and has been a strong supporter of the Friends from her days with the Auckland Regional Council. Her long experience in local body politics and her capacity for innovation and initiative and hard work have been of huge value to the Friends both before and during her time on the Executive Committee and during her time as a Trustee.

Heather is an outstanding example of a hard working, “behind the scenes” member of the Committee. She volunteers in a variety of capacities, is a member of the Library Management Group, assisted in the

huge job of re-cataloguing the books in the library to fit with Auckland Libraries system and organizes the library roster (a job that deserves a gold star!)

Dianne and Heather are both very worthy recipients of Life Membership. We congratulate them and thank them for their work. Read the full citations in this newsletter.

The Buchanan Award granted in 2019 was not able to be taken up owing to COVID-19 travel restrictions and was held over. It is hoped that this year's award will support travel by staff to two conferences in Australia in the new year – again, COVID-19 dependent.

The Friends Birthday Gift to the Gardens has been increased from this year to \$20,000 and is likely to go to improvements in the Edible Garden following the removal of the dying totara hedge.

The AGM was, as usual, followed by dinner at Café Miko and then by an entertaining and informative talk by Julia Watson on her recent trip to Canada and the USA, where she visited a number of famous and spectacular gardens and made many connections with eminent horticulturalists and gardeners. It was instructive, too, to be reminded how

much our dedicated Botanic Gardens staff achieve with resources which don't come near those available to many of these gardens which have extraordinary amounts of money behind them.

Planning is underway for the 2021/2 summer Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition. You will see the notification to artists opposite, which will be circulated in the arts community. As always we are looking forward to an exciting response.

Also on an arts note, Jennifer Duval-Smith has been chosen as the 2021 Friends Visiting Artist. Many of you will recognize her work from the 2018 Botanical Art Worldwide exhibition and from the Friends Art Group exhibitions. Her focus for the Visiting Artist Programme will be

on edible plants so expect to see her in the Edible and Herb Gardens and in the Visitor Centre gallery over January and February.

A recent weekend saw the Friends Bus Trip back on the road. We had an interesting and informative day visiting the garden at Puriri Lane, Jack and Sandra Hobbs' place and Wrights Watergardens with a visit to the historic St Bride's Church in Mauku in between. Thank you Kate Moodie for a very successful day – it's great to be able to get back to doing some of the things we have not been able to do for so much of this year!

Wishing all members a happy Christmas and a lockdown-free New Year!

Liz Powell

Julia Watson with a Chihuly glass sculpture at New York Botanical Garden



The Friends 2020/2021

Friends Executive Committee

President: Liz Powell
Vice President: Viv Canham
Past President: Dianne Glenn
Treasurer: Linda Christie
Secretary: Laure Lamason
Members: Bill Burrill
Cleone Campbell
Ross Ferguson
Heather Hine
Kate Moodie
Ex officio: Jack Hobbs
Anne Candy
Administrator: Irene Horton

Trustees

Chair: Liz Powell
Treasurer: Linda Christie
Members: Bill Burrill
Dianne Glenn
Graeme Hauer
Barbara Myron
Jack Hobbs
Cr Daniel Newman
(Auckland Council)
Anne Candy
(Manurewa Local Board)
Secretary: Irene Horton

SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS

20 November 2021 – 6 March 2022
AUCKLAND BOTANIC GARDENS

Exhibit in the outdoor exhibition in the gorgeous Auckland Botanic Gardens for the summer of 2021-2022, and have your work seen by over 300,000 people.

For entry forms visit sculptureinthegardens.nz
or email info@sculptureinthegardens.nz

Submissions close February 15th 2021.



Open for submissions

Brought to you by



Dianne Glenn

Citation for Honorary Life Membership, Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens

One of the most important responsibilities of the President of the Friends is to be responsible for interactions between the Friends and the staff at the Botanic Gardens and also the Auckland Council and other local bodies. Fortunately, cooperation with the staff stationed at the Gardens has generally been very straightforward over the years. Cooperation between the Friends and the Auckland Council and its administration and with grant-giving organisations can be more challenging. This is where Dianne Glenn's long experience in local body politics, at the Auckland Regional Council and the Counties Manukau District Health Board, as well as participation in organisations such as the National Council of Women and Business and Professional Women New Zealand, has been such a great advantage.

Dianne has had a long association with the Gardens. When first elected to the Auckland Regional Council she was appointed Deputy Chair of the Regional Parks. She visited the Gardens regularly on her way home from Council meetings to exercise and to attend functions – this was the start of what she describes as



her “love affair with the Gardens”. She regularly attended activities organised by the Friends and she made a point of ensuring that the Parks administration was aware of the contributions made by the Friends. She was a member of the Focus Group and Hearings panel established to develop the Auckland Gardens Master plan 2010–2050. It was mainly to implement the Master Plan that she joined the Friends. She was elected to the Executive in 2012 and served as President, 2016–2019. During her term in office she was responsible for a number of new initiatives such as ensuring that the

Friends had a workable Health and Safety policy and plan to comply with the requirements of the Act. Most of her time, however, was dedicated to taking over the responsibility for managing and funding the 2017/2018 Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition and then making it clear to Auckland Council, the Councillors and various staff members, via submissions to the city's Long Term Plan and the Manurewa Local Board's Annual Plan, that if the Council would not financially support a sustainable model, Sculpture in the Gardens could not continue in future years. Her great achievement was in securing funding for the next five exhibitions. With overall management now shared by the Gardens staff and the Friends, organisation of the 2019/2020 exhibition was much more straightforward and did not jeopardise the Friends' financial stability. Dianne is to be congratulated for securing this funding from the

Council, a success that demanded both determination and careful lobbying, even if the recent emergency budget in response to the COVID-19 crisis has now put this funding and future exhibitions at risk.

As well as serving as a member of the Executive Committee and a term as President, Dianne has also been a trustee on the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens Trust Board, first as a representative of the Auckland Regional Council from 2002–2010 and then as a representative of the Friends, chairing the Trust from 2016–2019.

Dianne Glenn has committed much time and energy to her "love affair" with the Auckland Botanic Gardens, despite her many other responsibilities. We are pleased to be able to acknowledge her efforts on our behalf by now electing her an Honorary Life Member of the Friends.

Heather Hine

Citation for Honorary Life Membership, Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens

The Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens are fortunate in having so many members who do not seek the

limelight or public recognition but are happy to work behind the scenes, are prepared to "get stuck in", who are always willing to volunteer, to undertake tasks. It is such members who do contribute so much to the success of the Gardens.



She has also been a member of the Executive Committee since 2014.

Heather is particularly fulfilled by her work in the Library, both as a member of the Library Management Committee and as a Library volunteer. She also organises the roster of Library volunteers. Several years ago the Library Committee decided that the books in the Library should be re-catalogued to adhere to the cataloguing system of the Auckland City Library. After all, the books do belong to the City. This meant that the books in the Botanic Gardens Library could be entered on the main City Library catalogue and could be searched for. Some of our members probably regret the change but the result was that the public could become much more aware of the abundant resources held in our Library. The re-cataloguing was carried out by professional librarians but Heather assisted by spending much time in scratching off old cataloguing labels, sticking on new ones and physically shifting, at least once, every single book to its new location on the shelves.

Heather is an excellent example of the valuable contributions made by volunteers to the continued success of the Gardens. She is always amongst the very first to volunteer to undertake tasks - through to completion and without fuss. Today we honour her for her sustained efforts over many years.

Heather Hine is an outstanding example. She joined the Friends in 2012 and since then has become one of our most reliable and diligent volunteers:

- she started by deheading roses – a task she enjoyed as long as it was not raining;
- she has served as a “meeter and greeter” for each of the exhibitions, Sculpture in the Gardens;
- she was a guide on the Wiri Rambler for four or five years and found the special groups particularly rewarding as they were more interested than most in the plants;
- she assisted with the running of the Eye of Nature programme;
- she helped with the school holiday programmes and liked watching the artistic endeavours of the children;
- she has long worked in the Library.

Growing Friends report

We are back in business after the second lockdown and sales are surprisingly good despite the water restrictions in Auckland.

We hope that good sales will continue at least until Christmas. We will not be opening on Thursday 24 December.

Currently we have good numbers of interesting plants coming from our propagation area to sales every week, so come check them out.

We are looking for approximately 10 Jimbo's pet food containers to use for storing labels as these are a perfect fit on our shelf, and we welcome donations of washed pots with no printed branding.

Bronwen Rowse

Plant sale days

Thursdays

9.00 a.m. till noon
and

First Sunday of the
month 10.00 a.m. till
2.00 p.m.

Wiri Rambler

Help needed! Over the last three years construction of the lower car park and the Pacific Pathway and Covid-19 have almost limited our operating. Before this time we were running on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons as well as taking bookings during the weekdays.

Age has caught up with some of our members; several of us are now over eighty years old. Some of us, like the older tractor, need "repairs" and need time to recover after surgery.

Currently operating on a Sunday afternoon only gives us an average

daily income of about \$265. If we have more people join us we could run on Saturdays and Public Holidays, more than doubling our contribution to the benefit of the Gardens.

Can YOU help us with one afternoon a month in which you can enjoy meeting people, enjoy with them touring the Gardens and / or driving our shiny new tractor called Nellie. Full training given if you volunteer.

For information please phone me. Kate (09) 2977234.

Kate Moodie

Nudge, nudge Photographic Competition

A gentle reminder that the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens have a Photographic Competition which has had a few hiccoughs and a delay because of COVID-19. However, we hope you are all out with your cameras getting some special shots that would make our competition a real success. The rules and entry form can be found on our websites or at the Visitor Centre, Huakaiwaka. The competition is open to all visitors to the Auckland Botanic Gardens and entry is free.

www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/whats-on/events/2020-friends-photographic-competition or
www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/about-us/friends-of-the-auckland-botanic-gardens/friends-programmes

There are four categories of which one will suit you – Gardenscape; Creative Angles; Friends of Flowers; and Youth – Through the Eyes of a Child.

Entries opened on 1 December 2019 - closure will be 21 February 2021. The exhibition will be in the Visitor Centre, Huakaiwaka, from 13 to 28 March. Awards Ceremony will be at 2.00 p.m. on 28 March.

A workshop to assist photographers

is planned for 13 February 2021: 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Friends Building. Please notify the Friends Administrator if you plan to attend, so equipment and members of the Manukau Photographic Society can be available to assist you to improve your chosen images.

Prizes will now be monetary: First in each category - \$200. Second in each category - \$100.

The Rod Bielecki Cup (perpetual) and miniature (to keep) will be awarded to the Best Adult Photograph overall, and a Trophy (to keep) will be awarded to the best Youth entry. Certificates will be awarded to all finalists in each category.

The photograph that wins the People's Choice will be awarded an extra \$50.

For any queries contact the Friends Administrator, Irene Horton (021 122 7418), or email friendsofabg@gmail.com.

Improve your skills!

Work with the Manukau Photographic Society to improve your chosen image!
13 February 2021:
9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Friends Building.
To book, contact Irene Horton.

Friends Art Group

As I look through my calendar, I see lots of crossings out as the COVID-19 lockdowns took their toll on our lives. Our monthly meetings were cancelled through both lockdowns reducing our usual 11 meetings to a mere 7, meaning artist demonstrations had to be rearranged or cancelled and many emails went back and forth updating members on our ability to meet up each month.

However, 2020 wasn't all bad – and looking back over the year confirmed how important the Art Group is to many of us. Once we were allowed

to meet our numbers were as good as, if not better on some occasions than before COVID-19 arrived. In fact, our last session saw over 30 of us keen to get to grips with calligraphy, the most we have ever had! Encouraged by one of our own members, calligrapher Jan Leonard, there was lots of intermittent laughter as ink splattered erratically over paper along with many furrowed brows as we were determined to tame our hand writing! How come we can produce such intricate and detailed work while our hand writing is often so unruly, shopping lists so

Calligraphy with Jan Leonard



undecipherable? Remembering, as Jan kept repeating, that “calligraphy is an art form” really helped. In such a fast-paced life, it is a good reminder to slow down and enjoy those small successful creative moments.

Other demonstrations from Val Cuthbert (printing on fabric using plant material) and colour pencil techniques from Gillian Receveur were eagerly anticipated and enjoyed, while drawing bugs with Jane Thorne has had to be postponed until next year.

During the first lockdown in March, we set up a Facebook group which allowed those social media savvy members to chat, share work and keep connected. This is still going so if you want to join please let me know. Our members showed what amazing photographers they were too as we had competitions to decide the new banner image – members could send through images for others to vote on and photos of plants won over artwork each time. We have a beautiful photo of a magnolia as our Spring banner image from Birgit Rhode.

Another positive to the year was that we all had more time to practise our craft. Our annual exhibition, aptly named “Creativity Unlocked” eventually happened in June and our members showed their artistic versatility with painted porcelain, botanically inspired jewellery and woven baskets also exhibited along

with the usual artworks.

Members who are Full Members of the Botanical Art Society of New Zealand (BASNZ) had a chance to exhibit twice this year as the society’s annual exhibition was shown in Auckland for the first time, it usually being held in Christchurch. I think you will agree that our members work is going from strength to strength.

The year finished off with our shared morning tea. We had a trading table where members could sell/barter/swap small artworks, cards and prints and for the first time, unwanted art materials and equipment were also sold/swapped and bartered for. A great way to clear out the art cupboards ready for all that new art stuff we just have to have! I’m sure I wasn’t the only one going home with more than I brought.

Despite such a disjointed year, our love of art, plants, and getting together saw us get through the year. If you would like to join us, whether you are a complete beginner or accomplished artist, we would love you to join us.

Keep safe and have a very merry Christmas, Lesley.

Lesley Alexander

.....
If you want to know more about the art group or BASNZ, either email me on Lesley.alexander.smith@gmail.com or phone 021 1617070

Friends spring bus trip

Saturday 7 November was among the days forecast for wet and windy weather. However, we were lucky as the day was fine.

Our first visit was to Puriri Lane with its beautiful flower beds and mature trees. Debbie took us around the garden telling us the story of the garden and how, with limited horticultural knowledge, she set about learning and developing the thriving nursery business. She imports seeds, growing plants mostly not easily available. We had time to purchase plants and garden wares from her shop.

We then travelled through

Patamahoe to Jack and Sandra Hobbs' garden arriving ahead of schedule. This gave us time for a leisurely lunch while admiring the colourful flowers. After lunch Jack took us on tour through the garden giving us lots of information about the plants.

Our next visit was nearby to St. Bride's Church where, sitting in this historic building, we listened to an interesting talk. Plans for the building started in 1859 and it was built in 1861. The area was involved in the Land Wars with local people gathering in the church, to which rifle slots ready for defence were made but not used.

Aloe barberae in Jack and Sandra Hobbs' Garden



From there we continued to the Watergardens in Patamahoe Road where we could wander down into the quarry to the waterlily ponds. Some of us went with ice creams or coffee from the cafe. On the way down we passed some beautiful red

hippeastrums in flower under the trees.

Arriving back at the Gardens, people collected up their plants, heading home looking a little weary after a busy and enjoyable day.

Enjoying Jack and Sandra's garden. Photo Heather Hine

Kate Moodie



Seasonal activities

I feel summer never left us this year, with the water restrictions imposed on Aucklanders in late summer still in place. At the Gardens we have been monitoring how plants perform over long dry summers through trialling annuals and perennials and assessing plants in the collections. To further assist plants flourish during dry periods we apply organic mulch when planting annuals in bedding displays and as edibles, and we spread a thick layer of mulch

after planting trees and shrubs while there is ample moisture in the soil.

In the Edible Garden, Angela Anstis has created space in the Food Forest and Kiwi Backyard for summer favourites like courgettes, squash, Māori potatoes and tomatoes. *Perilla*, *Amaranthus*, *Gomphrena*, peppers, chillies, parsley, beetroot, basil, eggplants, spring onion, French marigolds, sunflowers and herbs fill the Walled Garden, Culinary

Courtyard and raised planters. Edible flowers that add colour over the summer are cornflowers, pinks, forget-me-nots and roses.

Now is the time to plant heat-loving annuals such as sunflowers, *Begonia*, *Zinnia*, *Salvia*, *Celosia* and French marigolds. Summer bedding displays northside of the Visitor Centre and along Pohutukawa Walk are being planted with *Gomphrena*, *Salvia* 'Victoria', *Calibrachoa* and millet.

Our wonderful Rose Garden volunteers are back and they are deadheading roses until the end of March. This will allow the roses to continue flowering until early autumn. Prune back to a five-leaflet leaf, cutting on an angle just above the leaflet. Now is also the time to start deadheading perennials such

Penstemon 'Apple Blossom'



as *Penstemon*, *Ageratum*, *Dahlia*, *Scabiosa*, *Achillea*, *Coreopsis* and other daisies to ensure prolonged flowering.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs once they have finished flowering. Remove old flowering stems or cut them back to a strong side shoot or healthy bud. Spring-flowering shrubs such as *Forsythia*, *Deutzia* and *Philadelphus* produce most of their flowers on the new young growths made in the previous summer or autumn. For more pruning tips, visit the Auckland Botanic Gardens website: <http://www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/garden-advice/garden-tips/healthy-plants/pruning>

NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) has predicted a La Niña weather pattern for summer, forecasting weeks of high humidity in January and February. These are perfect conditions for pests and diseases to thrive. Reduce the impact of pest and diseases by allowing generous spaces between plants for good airflow, discard dead plant material, remove any plant parts affected by disease and pests, water plants around the root zone and, most importantly, choose plants that are suitable for Auckland conditions. There is lots of information on the best plants for Auckland on our website or from our Visitor Centre, Huakaiwaka

Mere Brewer
Senior Gardener Plant Collections

Edible Garden snippets

It has been very satisfying getting the Edible Garden area ready for summer, the first one in my role as collection curator for this area.

There is quite a lot happening this year including visiting artist Jennifer Duval-Smith who will be working in the Herb Garden and the Edibles Garden as her art is focussed on such plants. At the end of summer her work will be exhibited in the Visitor Centre.

Jeff Thomson's sculpture *Islands*

New things in the garden include an asparagus box constructed by our assets team of Alan Matthews (Hippy) and Vince Soulje from macrocarpa and coated with linseed oil. Both purple and green asparagus crowns are planted in the box and they are all sprouting at the moment.

This is the first summer for the upcycled garden box which was made by repurposing Jeff Thomson's sculpture from the last Sculpture in the Gardens. It is now located



in the Kiwi Backyard and features some companion planting, herbs, hanging tomatoes, spring onions and more. The spuds growing in the Kiwi Backyard this year are Māori potatoes called moemoe.

In the Culinary Courtyard there will be the usual mix of chillis, tomatoes, zucchini and sunflowers. The aim is to keep the four beds in colour blocks of red, yellow, cream and white, blue and purple.

The totara hedge surrounding the Culinary Courtyard had to be removed owing to many individual plants dying. This has created more space for plantings so I have extended the edible flowers bed which contains cornflowers, wallflowers, *Dianthus*, *Calendula*, *Alyssum* and roses. It is

looking very pretty at present with heaps of scent and colours.

In the wall garden the annual beds this year feature a mix of parsley, marigolds and white and purple *Gomphrena*, all of which tolerate dry conditions. Passionfruit are being tried on some of the walls as a change and we have grapes and blackberries as well.

I hope you all get a chance to walk through the Edibles Garden and see for yourself what I have described. I wish to thank my volunteers Eleanor Lane, Kevin Deed, Cleone Campbell and Katrina Muller who have provided wonderful support in bringing this summer garden together for our visitors to enjoy and learn from.

Angela Anstis



Angela with one of her volunteers Cleone Campbell

Sentinel network for roses

Over the next few months, the Gardens is participating in the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN) pilot study of key host species that are of interest to the United Kingdom. The IPSN is a collaboration between botanic gardens and arboreta, and plant health scientists around the world, and is coordinated by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). Botanic Gardens in Australia and New Zealand are part of the pilot study. IPSN are interested in a number of species, including roses, but most of the other species we don't have at the Gardens.

We have received some funding from BCGI and IPSN to survey our roses for pests and diseases and provide information back to

the programme. This information we collect may provide an early warning for rose growers overseas about potential pests or diseases that are not yet in their country. The programme requires two surveys, one in October or November and the second in December or January. Prior to each survey, we attend an online workshop to go through the templates, ask any questions and discuss the methodology for surveillance. We did our first survey in October over two mornings. In total, 211 roses were surveyed which took us about three hours. Any observations we make are recorded in a template to ensure all participating gardens are collecting data in a standardised way.



The IPSN is particularly interested in the distribution of Rose Rosette Virus (RRV), an emerging risk to rose cultivation. RRV is currently known in North America (symptoms were known of since the 1940s but the identity of the virus was determined only in the past decade) and arrived in India in 2017. The virus is transmitted by grafting and by mites. Most types of roses seem to be susceptible and the symptoms are broad including distorted petals, stems (e.g., witches' brooms) and leaves. There are no treatments for the disease.

As well as providing this information

to IPSN, we are going to collate this information into our own article on roses that do well in Auckland. We will be doing an extensive evaluation in the upcoming weeks, to rate all our roses out of 10 and updating our star performer recommendations. We will also be collecting weekly flowering records for all roses to support these evaluations. We hope to publish a comprehensive article about the performance of roses in Auckland as well as the history and changes we have made at the Gardens over the last 20 years to gardening with roses. Keep an eye out for that article later next year.

Emma Bodley and Bec Stanley

Controlling pests at the Gardens

For many years the Gardens have carried out pest control that particularly targets rats, possums, rabbits and mustelids (weasels, stoats and ferrets).

Following consultation with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) we have modified our pest control program. We now bait and trap on a "pulsing system" which involves baiting and trapping periodically when pests are most active, such as during the warmer months. Research has shown this to be far more effective than continuous baiting and reduces the chances of

pests becoming wary of the traps and "bait shy".

Additionally, we have changed the types of traps and baits we use to those recommended by MPI. Traps are GPS tracked to make it easier to identify their location. Data are captured and reviewed to see where pest "hotspots" are. We can then modify the trapping and baiting layout to suit. We have also taken the opportunity to update our safety signage. Recently we have added traps around the exterior of the buildings to target mice.

Rabbit numbers are controlled via night shooting conducted by a contractor approved by Auckland Council. Sighting of rabbits and their locations are recorded by staff to assist the contractor. Following a mail drop to neighbours and further communication via electronic media, a night shoot is conducted under strictly controlled conditions. The company engaged uses the very latest thermal imaging scopes to guarantee 100% target identification. We coordinate our shooting to align

with Totara Park's programme to reduce re-infestation from that population and vice versa.

Results so far have been extremely positive. We are noting a decrease in the amount of bait taken and the number of pests trapped, and an increase in the number of flowers, fruit and seeds on our plants and also an increase in native fauna.

Renton Campbell,
Senior Gardener Programmes

Big year, big changes

After many months of work, The Rose Gallery is now OPEN!

Previously known as the Stage Two Trial, The Rose Gallery is a showcase of attractive, high-performance, repeat-flowering roses arranged in a symmetrical planting pattern that shows roses in a range of hues.

A great deal of work has gone into the project. The pre-existing Stage Two Trial had begun to deteriorate so the roses were lifted and, in many cases, moved to other parts of the rose collection. The heavy, clay soil was excavated to a depth of 200 mm by Gardens With Attitude and new drainage installed before new improved planting medium was added. With the help of all of

the Field Team, we were able to get most of the Rose Gallery planted in two days.

The final touch, currently underway, is adding mulch to the beds. All are welcome to come and view the new display.

All the new roses are cultivars that Aucklanders can successfully use in their own gardens without the use of pesticides, and there is certainly something for everyone in the display.

In addition to the redevelopment of the Rose Gallery, we have new roses in the Stage One Trial, now simply named, The Rose Trial. There are some promising cultivars, with

some incredible flower colours and shapes and I hope that we will be able to include them in our collection post evaluation.

I wish to thank all the wonderful people who have contributed their time and effort to the projects in the rose gardens this year with special thanks to our returning volunteer,

Laetitia Gaignier, who attends every week to lend her skills and time to the rose collection, and to our Collections Team Leader, Mere Brewer, who has contributed hugely to the Rose Gallery Project.

Beau Timberland
Collection Curator, Roses

Rosa Eye of the Tiger



Why gouache on black?

In the recent exhibition of the Botanical Art Society of New Zealand in the Visitor Centre, the works by Sandra Morris stood out because they were on black not white paper. One of her nasturtiums is on the cover of this newsletter and we thank Sandra for allowing us to

reproduce it. Here she explains the reasons for her choice of black paper.

Having had a long-term interest in the cross-section watercolour studies by Arthur Harry Church, I was playing around with the idea of making paintings in a similar fashion with

New Zealand native plants. I was looking for a point of difference, and it was when browsing the shelves of the Auckland Botanic Gardens Library I came across a beautiful gem of a book featuring the work of Maud Purdy, staff artist for 32 years at Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. (*Drawing from Life - Maud Purdy and 90 years of Women Artists at Brooklyn Botanic Gardens*).

The brilliance of her colours immediately drew me in – she was my first introduction to using gouache paint on a black surface. I loved the way she composed her page but also – like Harry Church – she sliced her flowers open revealing all the inner structure.

Purdy's use of a black background was unconventional for the times; it would have been 300 years prior to her paintings that Nuremburg painter Barbara Regina Dietzsch was painting her floral subjects on a black background. Botanical wall charts from the late nineteenth century in Germany were popular classroom teaching tools and the most distinctive were the ones on black backgrounds by Jung-Koch-Quentell (Heinrich Jung, G. van Koch and F. Quentell). It is thought that these charts were available to Purdy.

And so I started my exploration of the inner workings of flowers and the world of gouache painting on black.

To start with I struggled with achieving anything akin to a Purdy!! Until I read that one must prepare the inside of the flower drawing with a matt white acrylic paint as a base to work the gouache paint on – otherwise it is difficult to achieve an opaque luminosity with the flower as even though most gouache paints are opaque, the black of the background keeps pushing through the paint colour and dulling the effect.

I was under pressure to get six botanical works ready during COVID-19 Lockdown for the BASNZ exhibition at the Auckland Botanic Gardens and just had to use the local plants available, some of which I gathered on my daily pilgrimage alongside the Whanganui River. No native plants were in flower locally at the time so I went with the beautifully bright nasturtiums and morning glories and periwinkles.

Slicing them open to reveal the inner floral structure was exciting and nerve wracking as I didn't want to damage too many specimens, and those little stamens are so delicate!

I am fascinated by the variety of inner structures and I am looking forward to working on a series of native flowers and their structure and native moths and butterflies in gouache on black for my exhibition in Whanganui in August 2021.

Sandra Morris

Naming plants – generic names

Species Plantarum, published by Carolus Linnaeus in 1753, is taken as the starting point of modern plant nomenclature. Linnaeus gave each plant a generic name, and then a specific epithet, and combined this binomial with a brief description.

Linnaeus wrote in Latin, as it was then the *lingua franca* of European scholars. Until 1 January 2012, all descriptions of new plants had to be in Latin; now English is also allowed. Botanical Latin is a specialised form of Latin with many Greek words added.

It is not surprising that, since he wrote in Latin, many of the generic names that Linnaeus chose for common European plants were based on their names in classical Greek or Latin:

- *Asparagus* from the Greek;
- *Olea* (olive) from the Greek *elaia*;
- *Triticum* (wheat) from the Latin;
- *Pyrus* (pear) from the Latin.

Sometimes he based the generic name on the common name in other languages:

- *Jasminum* (jasmine) from the Persian *yasmin*;
- *Sophora* (e.g., *kowhai*) from the Arabic *sophora*, used for a tree with pea-like flowers.

Linnaeus were often otherwise based on some characteristic of the genus:

- *Fritillaria* from the Latin, *fritillus*, a dicebox, referring to the chequered pattern on the petals of some species (e.g., *F. meleagris*);
- *Haemanthus* from the Greek *haima*, blood, and *anthos*, flower, referring to the colour of the flowers;
- *Hemerocallis* (daylily) from the Greek *hemera*, day, and *kallis*, beauty, as the flowers last only a day;
- *Trifolium* (clovers) from Latin, *tres*, three, and *folius*, leaf, referring to the trifoliate leaves.

Linnaeus wrote (translated), "I retain generic names derived from poetry, imagined names of gods, names dedicated to kings, and names earned by those who have promoted botany."

Generic names derived from classical mythology include:

- *Iris* after the Greek messenger Iris who came to earth by a rainbow;
- *Nyssa* (water-loving trees) after Nyssa, a Greek water nymph;
- *Tagetes* (marigolds) thought to be after Tages, an Etruscan deity, grandson of Jupiter.

The generic names chosen by

One of the few genera named

by Linnaeus after the apostles or Christian saints is *Veronica*, probably after St Veronica (famed for her cloth which she gave to Christ to wipe his brow). Perhaps the most overtly derived from Christianity is his *Passiflora* (the passionfruit), based on the symbolism invented by Spanish missionaries in South America: the flower representing the Passion of Christ, with the corona, the Crown of Thorns; the three styles, the nails used in the Crucifixion; the stamens,

the five wounds; the five sepals and five petals representing ten of the twelve apostles – not including Judas, or Peter, who denied him three times; the lobed leaves and tendrils, the hands and scourges of those who beat Christ.

Carlina (thistle) is named for Charlemagne (Karl der Grosse) because it was believed that a thistle saved his army from a plague.

Many genera are named after friends or fellow botanists of Linnaeus:

- *Gunnera* after Bishop Gunnerus, a Norwegian botanist;
- *Lagerstroemia* after Magnus von Lagerstrom, a friend;
- *Magnolia* after Pierre Magnol, a French botanist;
- *Nicotiana* after Jean Nicot, who introduced tobacco to France.

All the names listed above were chosen by Linnaeus, but subsequent botanists followed him in the way they invented generic names. Thus in the New Zealand flora, *Corokia* and *Hoheria* are based on Māori names, *Hebe* after the Greek goddess of youth and *Carmichaelia* after a Captain Dugald Carmichael. *Podocarpus* is based on the Greek podos, foot, and karpos, fruit, referring to the fleshy aril on which the seed is borne; *Clianthus* from the Greek, glory, and anthos, flower; *Coprosma* from the Greek kopros, dung, because of the unpleasant smell of the crushed leaves.



Carolus Linnaeus (Carl von Linné). Wedgwood medallion originally made in 1775 by the English sculptor John Flaxman and derived from one of the wax portraits of 1773 by C.F. Inlander. Replica from The Linnean Society of London. Photograph: Wara Bullôt.

Generic names are more than just names – they were chosen for a reason. Knowing the origin of a generic name can tell us a great deal about a plant or refer to distinguished botanists or to the romance of plant collecting. In future articles I will describe some of the generic “names earned by those who have promoted botany.” I have to be selective. An exhaustive

catalogue by Lotte Burkhardt at the Belin Botanischer Garten lists some 16,500 eponymous plant genera named after “real” people, mythological figures and fictional characters.

Ross Ferguson

.....

The origin of many generic names is given in *Plants and their names*, a dictionary by Roger Hyam and Richard Pankhurst.

Naming plants - *Strelitzia reginae*

Strelitzia reginae is the botanical name of the well-known “bird of paradise” or “crane flower”, as it is called in its homeland, South Africa. It is grown in many New Zealand gardens, but the plants are too often rather sad, with scruffy leaves and dead flowers. As a result, it is very easy to forget that the newly opened flowers really are wonderful.

It was first introduced to Britain in 1773 by Francis Masson, a plant collector for Sir Joseph Banks. Unsurprisingly, it created a sensation: “one of the most scarce and magnificent plants introduced into this country.” The first published illustrations seem to have been those of John Miller in his *Icones* of 1780. This, a small number of annotated plates, found in only a very few libraries, was the first part of an ambitious project which never

came to fruition. Miller gave the plant the incorrect name of *Heliconia bihai*.

In 1787 James Sowerby prepared a watercolour which was the basis of an engraving prepared by David Mackenzie for Banks. Hand-coloured copies of this plate labelled *Strelitzia reginae*, were being distributed by Banks to friends and fellow botanists by 1788. Such distribution of the plates is considered sufficient to be treated as publication of the new name *Strelitzia reginae*. The engraving subsequently appeared as Tab. 2 (Fig. 2) in William Aiton’s *Hortus Kewensis* of 1789 and another illustration and full description is to be found in *Curtis’s Botanical Magazine* of 1790 (Vol. 3: Tab. 119 and 120).

Why *Strelitzia*? Mecklenburg-Strelitz was a Grand Duchy in north-eastern Germany, north of Brandenburg and to the west of Pomerania. Such small German states were a reliable source of spouses for the Hanoverian dynasty in Britain up to the time of George V. The requirements of a royal spouse were straightforward:

- they must be of suitable status;
- they must be of child-bearing age;
- they must be Protestant.

Compatibility seemed to be a minor consideration.

Princess Sophie Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz was considered a suitable wife for the young King George III, who, when only 22, had become King of Great Britain and Elector of Hanover after the death of his grandfather, George II, in 1760.

A year later he and Princess Sophie Charlotte married, only six hours after her arrival in London. They led a life of quiet domesticity spoilt eventually by the King's increasing mental instability. Fortunately, they were compatible: their union produced 15 children, 13 of whom survived to adulthood, three becoming kings and one a queen consort. A granddaughter was Queen Victoria.

The epithet *reginae* makes it clear that it was the Queen who was

being commemorated, "in honour of our most gracious Queen Charlotte" (Curtis, 1790), not the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. This is emphasised in the two plates of 1804 and 1812 for Dr Thornton's *The Temple of Flora* (dedicated to Queen Charlotte) where the plant is labelled "The Queen" and "The Queen Flower", respectively.

By the standards of today, but not those of the 18th century, Banks' naming of such a wonderful plant for the Queen may seem rather sycophantic. It was a means of ensuring continued support for Banks' aspirations for the gardens at Kew. Banks and the King shared a common enthusiasm for agriculture and the Queen was likewise an enthusiastic amateur botanist.

In the Auckland Botanic Gardens, *S. reginae* is to be found mainly in the African Garden and the related *S. nicolai* in the Palm Garden. An impressive and rather intimidating clump of *S. nicolai* is near the pond and waterfall at Eden Garden.

Ross Ferguson

.....

For more details, see D. J. Mabberley 2011. A note on some adulatory botanical plates distributed by Sir Joseph Banks. *Kew Bulletin* **66**: 475-411.



Clockwise
from top left:
Leucospermum 'Preciosa',
Rosa Fellowship
Rosa Absolutely Fabulous
and
Rhododendron
'Mollie'





Strelitzia reginae Photo: Jack Hobbs
See article on page 29.



Auckland Botanic Gardens: botanic.gardens@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Friends: friendsofabg@gmail.com