

Newsletter

April 2011

*Featuring: Bush walks opened
Bulb sale
Nursery stories*



*The Pukatea and Waipiro bush walks have been
officially opened.*

*Now it's time to buy bulbs and pick pumpkins!
The bulb sale is on again & if you've grown a stunning
pumpkin – or a really odd one – the Botanic Garden
wants to see it.*

President's Patch

This may be an opportune time to update members on some aspects of your committee's agenda at the present time. Actually I think our activities are like the proverbial iceberg: only a small part of our work is visible above the surface but underneath there is a good deal of planning and preparation underway for the future.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a report about the inauguration of the bush walk on 14 March, attended by our Mayor, Celia Wade-Brown. The bush walk project is a good example of the length of time projects take to complete. In this instance it took more than five years to bring it to fruition. This is not a criticism: it is a reality. Most projects are joint ventures among ourselves, Garden management and sometimes outside experts. In any event I am convinced the time taken was in a good cause: we now have a valuable addition to the various paths and walks in the Garden and one which shows up what has perhaps been a neglected feature – that is, the bush remnants. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in the project for their persistence and commitment to getting the job done.

Another long-term project we have begun to investigate is the possible preservation of the remains of a portion of the original fence around the Garden. Members may recall that an earlier newsletter (August 2010) included an account by Phil Tomlinson of the history of the boundary fence and some photos of the surviving remnants of this fence.

At the AGM it was suggested that the committee investigate if these remnants could be conserved.

We are pursuing this idea and hope to have progress to report at his year's AGM.

An initiative of Garden management is to look into the development of a children's/teaching garden, to underpin the education function of the Garden. As a first step, a workshop bringing together outside expertise and stakeholders in Wellington will be held on 11 June. More information about this workshop, for which the FOBG is providing financial support, is in David Sole's report which follows. Members of the Friends will be welcome to attend.

We are pursuing an idea put forward by your indefatigable Vice President, Phil Tomlinson. Phil has done a survey of plaques and memorials in the Garden which have become damaged or obscured over the years. The next step is to assess and prioritise, with Garden management, the work needed to restore the most important plaques and memorials and the Committee will be considering how we can financially support this project.

These are some of the projects we are pursuing at the present time. And as always we would welcome feedback or suggestions from members regarding new or existing projects.

Finally I would like to congratulate our long-serving committee member Richard Nanson on the well-deserved award of the Member of the Order of New Zealand for his services to horticulture.

Frank Wilson

Botanic Bulletin

My thanks to the Friends for the commissioning and completion of the Pukatea and Waipiro bush walks which were officially opened by Mayor Celia Wade-Brown on 14 March. While the gestation of the walks took some time, the interpretation we now have in place is consistent with the rest of the garden, is lucid, meaningful and a great

asset to the garden. My thanks also extend to staff members Charmaine Scott and Leanne Killalea.

While I am in thank you mode I'm not sure I can thank enough the Guides and Hosts who have attended the Cable Car lookout greeting the



cruise ship passengers. The rapid succession of ships and hot weather have made this a demanding task at times. I spent a half day assisting on what was a cooler day and perhaps with a little less pressure but the interaction with visitors was constant. I particularly enjoyed talking with them about where they have been, where they are going and helping them plan their time in or around the garden. It was my impression that they gained genuine pleasure from the personal experiences that the Guides and Hosts offer with this service*.

The tulip bulbs arrived from the deep south this week. They have been sorted and labelled ready for planting in April. The staff have been working on designs to plant the tulips as facsimiles of flags of the Rugby World Cup nations playing in Wellington. It certainly took some calculating to get the numbers right and will be a stunning display in the spring.

The mixture of warm weather and almost regular rain has meant that the Garden has held well through the summer. Strong winds have continued to take their toll, with many branches being broken, though fortunately no more significant trees failing.

Our colleagues in Christchurch have had more damage

in the garden from this earthquake than the last. The Cunningham House is thought to be intact but a number of trees were forced from the ground by the liquefaction, falling and damaging other trees, sculptures and paths. Mona Vale has been seriously damaged and we have yet to hear of its fate. It will be a difficult period ahead for all Christchurch City Council staff as they create and adjust to new priorities over the coming months and years.

With the assistance of funding from the Friends, a workshop to discuss the development of a

children's/teaching garden is being held in the Botanic Garden on Saturday 11 June. You may recall that one of the original collections established by Hector was a teaching garden on what is now the Soundshell. Not only established to demonstrate horticultural practices to early settlers, Hector also used it to display New Zealand plants suitable for ornamental plantings in home gardens. The proposal offers an exciting opportunity to return to the roots of the garden, reach out to a wider community, engage with children and ultimately to connect people with plants. Designer of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Potter Children's Garden Andrew Laidlaw will be attending, as will Mere Brewer, who project-managed the extension of the Auckland Botanic Garden Children's Garden and has recently returned from a study tour looking at children's gardens. You are invited to attend!



The old teaching garden – Donal Duthie postcard collection

It is with disappointment that from 30 June we will be disestablishing the librarian's position for the Botanic Garden and Otari. Elizabeth Clarke has done a magnificent job of accessioning books, journals, magazines and newsletters over many years. The administration of the library will be taken over by staff at Otari and the Botanic Garden. We have recently purchased the library module for BG Base which will also assist in its future maintenance. A reminder that it is an excellent resource which is constantly expanding and you are encouraged to make use of it!

Much better news is that the garden has been reaccredited by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture New Zealand Gardens Trust as a Garden of National Significance. This is again an affirmation of the commitment of the city, Friends and staff to the garden and its role in the community.

With the pumpkin competition under way we are expecting to see a range of large, shapely and possibly particularly ugly specimens being delivered to the garden in the next two weeks. Have you got yours ready to enter? (Wives,

children, husbands or pets are not accepted!)

*David Sole
on behalf of the Botanic Garden Team*

* A note from Richard Byrne who puts in time as a host: "At the Cable Car entrance recently I met a visitor from Canberra National Gardens Friends who thought our host system wonderful and will put it to the committee when she gets back.

I just love doing the duty...you meet so many nice people and the north Americans can't get over the fact we are volunteers! Cheers, Richard"

From Pukatea to Waipiro

After years of gestation the Garden's two new self-guided bush walks had their first official 'walking' on 14 March.



Jenny Hickman led a group of Friends, staff, Mayor Celia Wade-Brown and other invitees along the Pukatea walk, pointing out some of

the highlighted plants and telling us a little more about them, for instance how kohekohe flowers arise directly from the trunk and branches (and, for those who like to learn new words, this is called cauliflory) – a feature of many tropical rainforest trees. Jenny told us that kawakawa, a member of the pepper family, is closely related to the plant kava comes from, but that nothing similar can be extracted from kawakawa!



First walk completed, we were treated to a delicious afternoon tea courtesy of the Friends, followed by speeches.

Ted Woodfield provided the historical perspective:

"Five years ago the Council gave Friends an environmental grant of \$1,000 as a contribution to the costs of plans and designs for an interpretive walk in the native bush areas of the Garden. Today we celebrate the culmination of the work that led to the application and since.

The Friends, since our inception in 1991, have given high emphasis to the significance of the Garden's native bush remnants as an important heritage feature of the city landscape. This was a key element in the submission for and recognition in 2005 by the Historic Places Trust, of the Garden as an historic area.

The concept of interpretive bush walks was given momentum by the report by two Friends – Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne – on the survey of the native bush remnants they conducted for the Friends in 2003. Amongst their comprehensive recommendations they proposed signage describing the significance of the remnants, an illustrated pamphlet and a self-guided 'Remnants Walkway'.

In 2005 the Friends committee reviewed those recommendations and invited Barbara and Chris to give a preliminary view of the possible scope and costs of establishing a walkway. Their report provided the basis for our application for a grant and a further invitation to them to develop a detailed proposal.

In May 2006 this report on a route, features for signage and a brochure arrived. The focus up to that point had been on a single continuous trail, but after further consideration the committee decided that, to provide a more attractive, accessible and user-friendly offering, the concept should be revised to encompass two trails covering different parts of the Garden. Barbara and Chris were then engaged to prepare a report on two trails and associated signage. Apart from the Council grant, all costs thus far were met by the Friends.

The committee agreed on a detailed proposal on routes and signage sites and formally submitted it to David Sole in March 2007.

During the period between March 2007 and March 2011 Botanic Garden priorities, resources (including staff changes) and changes in perspective over time caused delays. We did signal our frustration from time to time but I must say we did not doubt the commitment to the concept by David and his team.

Two major proposed changes were put to us over this latter period. The first was to not have a brochure. The reason was foreseen logistical problems in the placement and maintenance of brochure holders, given the topography of the Garden. The second was to have expanded signage to include material that would have been in the brochure and to use Abacus signage pedestals, as used elsewhere in the Garden, for it. Given our own views on the need for high standards and uniformity of signage in the Garden, we were happy to concur with these proposals.

The end result, as you will observe today, is two walks – the Pukatea and the Waipiro – with excellent interpretive signage telling the story of the bush: what it comprises, how it came to be preserved and the challenges still faced. The signage is designed for the general visitor but also includes information of interest to the more informed and expert viewer.

Today is the culmination of half a decade of work by the partnership of the Friends and Garden staff. On behalf of the committee I want to acknowledge in particular the major contribution of Charmaine Scott in preparing the texts, designing the signs and managing the project. She not only talked the talk with her language skills and expert knowledge, but also walked the walks many, many times. The artwork by Eleanor Burton deserves special mention. Our thanks are extended to David for his overview and personal input, to Leanne Killalea for her contribution to design and texts, to Neil Christensen and his team for their work in installation and to those Council staff and other contractors who gave support in various ways. And our appreciation goes to Jenny Hickman for her expert guidance today.

Finally, thanks to the members of the Friends. They have contributed close to \$10,000 to this project. I am sure they will agree that it has been spent on a project well worth pursuing."

[Abridged – Ed]



President Frank Wilson minding the Mayoral limo

Mayor Celia Wade-Brown was then introduced. She noted that the Botanic Garden was, along with Te Papa, Wellington's top tourist attraction – and that it might depend on the weather

as to which was the most popular on any given day. She spoke of the importance of the Garden's native bush as a link from Otari to all the smaller reserves and revegetation sites in the city. She went on to say that she hoped that, in looking at the Garden's mature and very old trees such as the black maire, the volunteers who were digging holes and planting "little sticks" would see what those might one day become and be inspired.

Those who still had the time and energy then set off with Jenny to explore the Waipiro walk.

And in case you are wondering, the two walks are named after streams in the Botanic Garden.

Cuttings

Winsome Shepherd recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Happy birthday Winsome!

Show us your pumpkins!

The Botanic Garden is holding a pumpkin contest. There are five categories: biggest, ugliest, best-dressed, most unusual and cutest, so everyone has a chance of winning one of the prizes, valued at \$100 each, donated by Commonsense Organics, Twigland Johnsonville and Picnic café.

Entries must be at the Treehouse by midday Wednesday 13 April and will be judged by the Mayor Celia Wade-Brown.

Kings Seeds are giving out pumpkin-growing advice and seeds so you can get a head-start for next year's contest.

So have a fossick around in your veggie garden and see what you can find, then pick up an entry form from the Treehouse, Begonia House shop or www.Wellington.govt.nz



Bulb sale

It's that time again – time to order a bargain or two for your spring garden. Choose from this year's selection, complete the order form and send, with cheque, to:

Angela Hill, 25A Woodmancote Road, Wellington 6035. Please make cheque payments to 'Friends of Wellington Botanic Garden'



TULIPS: 5 BULBS FOR \$5-00

Pictured: ILE DE FRANCE rich deep red, and WHITE DREAM, pure white, pictured in the Botanic Garden during Spring Festival 2010.

Also red:

ROCOCO red with dark green flash parrot tulip not too frilled, shorter growth, weather resistant [and a hit in pots in the Treehouse last year – Ed]

PRETTY WOMAN lily tulip and long lasting

ESCAPE lighter red, new to the Garden.

GERRIT VAN DER VALK red with a golden yellow edge, new to the Botanic Garden.

CAROLA is pink and new to the Botanic Garden.

ANGELIQUE peony tulip, apple blossom pink

DAYDREAM starts yellow and changes to orange, large flower.

FRANCOISE large creamy white.

LILY SCHREYER canary yellow
The three look lovely altogether.

SPRING GREEN Ivory with a green flame

Short growing and excellent in pots or borders:

DONNA BELLA cream with carmine patch and leaves streaked and spotted brown

ORANGE TORONTO soft orange/apricot.

SPECIES CROCUS: 10 BULBS FOR \$5-00

PRINZ CLAUS white with purple flame

FIREFLY soft mauve/blue

CREAM BEAUTY rich cream

KAPITI COAST BULBS:

Petticoat daffodils (*Narcissus bulbocodium*) \$3 for 10

Paperwhite daffodils

(*N.papyraceus*) \$3 for 5

Freesia burtonii NZ raised fragrant creamy-white flowers yellow markings \$2 for 10.

Ixia \$3 for 10. Pink, yellow or white; starry flowers on slender stems.

From Te Horo: *Crocasmia*

'Lucifer' Tall growing, brilliant red. \$2 for 5.



Nursery stories

At the AGM Peter Tijssen, the Botanic Garden's long-serving expert on matters horticultural, regaled the Friends with tales of the old nursery.

We have much needed new glass and shade houses at the nursery after waiting patiently for 25 years for them. There was a time we were very nervous, as consideration was seriously given to having no nursery at all in the Botanic Garden.

Our old glasshouses had served us well, they had charm and character and could also tell a few stories - those who could tell the earlier ones are now well gone.

Our oldest of the houses dated back to the early 1900s. When it rained you could get just as wet inside as you did outside. When it blew hard, panes of glass could blow out and fly past you – which may be the reason for my hair loss. When it was cold the heat would escape through the large gaps caused by the subsidence of the land they were built on. When glass was replaced it took skill to make it stay in place. We had to stop hosing and cleaning the algae and moss off the glass from the inside as some panes would actually pop off under pressure. The inability to clean the houses properly meant that pests and disease had a free run, hibernating in the old cracks, nooks and crannies without being disturbed - a haven for them and a nightmare for us.

My first regular time of working at the Nursery was as a second year apprentice when I was asked to do weekend duty. It was quite a responsibility in those days – sometimes having to roll 44 gallon drums of diesel and pump it into the boiler tank. From memory we used 60 to 80 gallons a week during the colder months. The heating was switched off over summer, probably from mid-November to the end of March.

The nursery being next to the Director of Park's residence meant we were neighbours. Firstly there was Mr Edward Hutt and then Ian and Alison Galloway from 1971 when they married. Mr Hutt had a corgi which he would walk from time to time. He was a rather serious man and was not prone to long conversations, especially with young male apprentices. Having neighbours had

its pluses and minuses – muffins and cakes on a regular basis, Christmas mince pies, and the occasional whiskey on Christmas Day if we were on duty. But there were always the extra little things to do.

The Galloways were Scottish Collie people and, as he took their dog Cindy for a walk, he noticed when things required attention. Cindy, a rather shy dog, was a regular visitor to the Nursery, taking any little titbits she was offered – potato chips being a favourite. (I had to tell Cindy, our Nursery curator, very gently that she was not the first Cindy in the nursery – I don't think she took it that well, especially as the first was a female dog).

Then there was Penny the cat, Mr Galloway's cat, she was number one. Penny was also the nursery cat and was easily trained. She would toilet herself in trays of vegetable seedlings that were quietly being grown by the then foreman. When the old potting shed was still in use she would take short cuts through the nursery by using the holes in the rotting floor to come and go.

We grew lots of fuchsias in pots, baskets and as standards until whitefly hit Wellington from the north – it was a real struggle to keep this pest under control. We used chemicals Black Leaf 40, Vapona and all the popular pesticides of the day. I can look back with a clear conscience, knowing we always used good protective clothing when spraying.

Now, with our IPM programme we get a few tabs of *Encarsia* eggs – *Encarsia formosa* is a little predator wasp. When we see the first whitefly adult we place the tabs around plants that are prone to attack once a week for eight weeks – end of problem. We also use predators for controlling mealy bug (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*), aphids (*Aphidius colemani*), two-spotted spider mite (*Phytoseiulus cucumeris*), and thrip larvae (*Amblyseius cucumeris*). We are going to breed our own *Thripobius* for the control of thrip.

Cut flowers were grown on the terraces for a long time, for arrangements in the Mayor's quarters and for civic functions in council chambers and the Town Hall. Each Monday we would create six arrangements for the Mayor and the council chambers and one for the Town Clerk's Office. These would be freshened up each Wednesday or if some important dignitaries were visiting. A bouquet of flowers was given to each councillor at the monthly evening council meeting for him to take home to his wife. All this started to change when women also became councillors, along with unmarried men.

Up to seven or more staff were employed, sometimes more when production at the nursery was at its peak. We grew begonias, lilies, fuchsias, foliage plants, trees and shrubs for the Botanic Garden's needs and shrubs for growing on at the Berhampore Nursery. We also grew thousands of succulents for Cobham Drive and the crib walls at Newtown Park.

When I started in 1965, trees and shrubs were propagated in the nursery, with softwood cuttings grown under mist - 25,000 ngaios for the town belt and other shrubs for road side plantings – you could write in and request these to beautify your road frontages. I believe this is a service still available today, but just natives are now grown. Lots of hardwood cuttings would be taken and started off in wooden fruit boxes and once rooted would be taken to the Makara nursery and lined out and grown on for lifting then balled up in hessian squares, a cold and wet yet very satisfying job – if it was too wet we would spend the day in the hay barn and wait for the green Parks truck to pick us up.

The pots we used were all clay - terracotta as they are known today – although we had started using little plastic penny pots for rooted cuttings. The Royal visit was a turning point. These visits meant a lot of extra plants and work and plastic pots made such a difference. Begonias were grown under lights to get them flowering on time and lilies were also grown in pots.

Plastic made things so much easier – the pots took less storage room, they weighed less so more could be carried, there were fewer breakages, washing them was so much easier (no more using old hessian to remove the green

algae) and they did not dry out as quickly so required less watering. The first plastic pots came from Andersons in Napier – sadly this nursery is closing down now. Examples at least 40 years old are still around.

Our main crop was and still is *Begonia x tuberhybrida* which was grown in 8" clay pots. We used to tap the clay pots to hear if they need watering. They thud when wet and sound hollow when dry. Never pot into dry clay pots and never put dry potting mix into wet pots. Potting mix has changed to bark-based as loam and sand are not the best in Wellington and bark is lighter so freight is cheaper.

Alternanthera, from the amaranth family, was grown for the floral clock next to the Town Hall – the Michael Fowler Centre removed that. It was great training in planting and maintaining carpet bedding and I think it is time to bring it back.

We looked after dogwoods in quarantine from Washington for Robert Muldoon – a man who liked lilies can't be all bad.

Prince Phillip visited the Nursery, as did Maggie Barry and Jack Hobbs. We've had many visits from plantspeople from around the world, many the top in their field.

Following a murder in Karori we looked after evidence - an apple tree and turf - at the nursery. I had to go to the site with the police to advise on how long the apple tree may have been planted for. We went into the kitchen and I remember that all the drawers had been removed along with the utensils in them. The linoleum floor had been washed – it was spotless. We maintained the tree and the turf for many months, until after the trial.

I did not start or even spend much time at the nursery until I finished my apprenticeship. I was very fortunate to have Donal Duthie as my foreman. He taught me so much and was a great person to work with - a great plantsman interested in all plants, so a real asset to us in the Garden. We would visit private gardens and collect cuttings and seedlings of plants to add to the Garden's collection. Cuttings were collected from the Seddons - rhododendrons, camellias and

fuchsias; from Matthews in Waikanae – proteas and other South African species. No weekend away would be complete without returning with bags of cuttings to propagate. The Wahine storm, as devastating as the damage was, provided a great opportunity to introduce new plants to areas that had to be cleared. Many new rhododendrons were propagated along with maples, magnolias, azaleas and *Enkianthus*.

When the herb garden was established plants needed to be propagated for it so we would work after normal hours propagating and potting new plants alongside members of the Wellington Herb Society.

The opening up and building of roads so all glasshouses could be accessed by vehicle made a big difference to the nursery. Both Ian Galloway and Richard Nanson dug back banks to enable vehicles to get around the nursery and buildings.

We had roosters at the duck pond – chasing and pecking children, and we ended up with hens and chickens around the Nursery, and budgerigars in the mess room.

There were no telephones – when one was installed it was a chance for a little lunchtime entertainment. The ladies of the nursery arranged for one of their family members to ring, as we knew the play area toilets had been forgotten and were still locked. She rang Bill Lannie at lunchtime and said she was appalled that toilets in the play area were still locked after 9am as she was walking back from taking her children to school and needed to use them rather urgently. She said she was hugely embarrassed having to duck into the bushes; the Mayor was going to be rung. It was a great prank.

The current potting shed was divided into three, including a mess room, but there was no toilet, you used the one in the play area, lower mess room or the bush behind the glasshouse. The old potting shed was where our mess rooms are now. It was falling down and Ron Nicholls eventually tied a rope to his truck through the door of the potting shed inside and around and out the window, knotted it securely and revved the Bedford up and pulled it down – great excitement!

Clothing was mostly stubbies or copycat brands, tee shirts and jandals. On hot days bikinis were not uncommon and one well-known Wellington gardener went through a period of wearing just a loin cloth – sometimes seen blowing in the wind.

Where some people who worked at the Nursery and the Botanic Garden went:

Alan Brown – Head Gardener Rita Angus and Malvina Major retirement homes

Angela Williams – Landscape Gardener, Perth, Western Australia

Anthony (Tony) Williams – Town Planner/ Landscape designer, Dubai

Bill Doreen - Lilies International

Bill Robinson – plantsman, Tikitere Garden

Dr. Bob Chinnock – botanist, author – South Australia

Bob Hutchings - Horticultural Supervisor - Taupo District Council

Bruce and Christine Harkness – landscape gardening

Claire Levy – grower of fresh herbs, Christchurch.

Clare Douglas – kitchen and flower gardener for Ruth Pretty

Clayton Bridge – policeman, barrister, London

David Brown – plantsman, Browns Nursery, Tauranga.

David Rowe – maintenance gardener, Rowe's Gardens

Dianne Paton – Parks co-ordinator, Tauranga City Council

Donal Duthie – plantsman, gardener

Geoff Walker – past Publishing Director of Penguin NZ

Gerry Rotman – vineyard manager, Ata Rangi, Martinborough

Graeme Burt – Ambervale Complete Gardening Services, Rosebud, Victoria

Hannah McIntyre – Teacher, gardener, florist, caterer

Hannah Zwartz – garden columnist, horticultural tutor

Jacob De Ruiter – landscape gardener, vintner, author

Jason Temell – Palmers, Miramar.

Josie Martin – 'Linton', A Garden of National Significance, Akaroa

Mark Winter – landscaper, gardener

Melanie Lawrie – gardener
 Mervyn Cox landscaper, gardener
 Mick Reece – plantsman, Community and Recreation Services Manager, Dunedin City Council
 Miriam Busby – part-time gardener
 Nicola MacDonald – gardener, Timara Lodge, Blenheim
 Philip Roche – President of Plant Specialists New York, specializing in rooftop gardens and a regular in the NY society magazine pages.
 Richard Nanson – plantsman, horticultural consultant, tutor, volunteer, plant and garden judge, overseas garden tour guide

Robert Craven – Greater Wellington Regional Council – Queen Elizabeth Park
 Rob Graham – plantsman, Principal Arboriculture Tutor Wintec, Hamilton
 Rob Lucas – we looked after him in his formative years – we still look after him now
 Roy Walker – plantsman, gardener
 Shane Scarlet – Wishbone ready-to-eat food
 Terry Smyth – plantswoman, Curator, Southern Chinese Plant Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne..
 Walter Cook – plantsman, historian, gardener, author, librarian
 Warren Kerruish – Agribusiness Horticultural Tutor



*Then – 1985 (left)
 and
 Now (below)*



Coming Events

Fridays 8 April, 8.30pm, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July at 7.30pm

Glow in the dark glow-worm tours

Meet at the Founders' entrance on Glenmore Street for these fascinating tours into the world of the glow-worm. The tours take about one hour. Please bring a torch. Adults \$5, children under-12 free.

Sunday 17 April, 11am

The plant hunters

Throughout the ages people have devoted time to finding new and unusual plants for medicine, food or pleasure. On this easy one-hour walk hear about the people – from an Egyptian Queen to an English knight – who went seeking them and brought them home, often at great risk. Meet on the Treehouse veranda.

Cost: \$4.

Easter Monday 25 April, 10.30am

Beautiful, bountiful bark

Bark is not only a protective 'skin' for a tree, but can also be beautiful, have useful properties or other hidden characteristics. Meet at the Cable Car entrance for this moderate 90-minute walk.

Cost: \$4.

Sunday 15 May, 11am

Solander's world and plant names

Botanists Carl Linnaeus and Daniel Solander, and botanical artist Sydney Parkinson feature in a story about Captain Cook's first voyage, the source of New Zealand's first flora and why plants are named the way they are. Meet on the Treehouse veranda for this easy 75-minute walk.

Cost: \$4.

Monday 23 May, 10.30am

Wearing our plants

On this moderate 90-minute walk we look at plants from around the world that have provided fibres for clothes. Meet at the Founders' Entrance (main gates), Glenmore Street.

Cost: \$4.

Saturday 11 June

Children's/teaching garden workshop

The Treehouse

Monday 13 June, 11am

Matariki walk - He kai, he ahi, he weu, he rongoa

This food, fire, fibre and medicine trail looks at traditional uses of native plants, on an easy 80-minute walk. Meet at the Cable Car entrance.

Cost: \$4

Sunday 19 June, 11 am

History of the Main Garden

Hear interesting stories from the early days of Wellington and the Botanic Garden on this easy 90-minute historical walk. Meet at the Founders' Entrance, Glenmore Street.

Cost \$4

Sunday 19 June

Rose Pruning Day, Botanic Garden

Check out www.wellington.govt.nz for demonstration times.

Monday 27 June, 10.30 am

Sculptures, sundials & solstice

View the new and old sculptures in the Botanic Garden and the sundials on this moderate 90-minute winter solstice walk. Meet in the Begonia House foyer.

Cost: \$4

Friends of Wellington's Botanic Gardens, P.O. Box 28-065, Kelburn, Wellington 6150

President: Frank Wilson, phone (04) 475 7337, email: fmwilson@clear.net.nz

Secretary: Brian Absolum, phone (04) 499 0885, email: babsolum@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.friendswbg.org.nz

Newsletter Editor: Charmaine Scott, phone (04) 383 6285, email: thecats@xnet.co.nz

Typeset and printed by NS Services phone/fax (04) 970 5036, email: gderb@ihug.co.nz

