

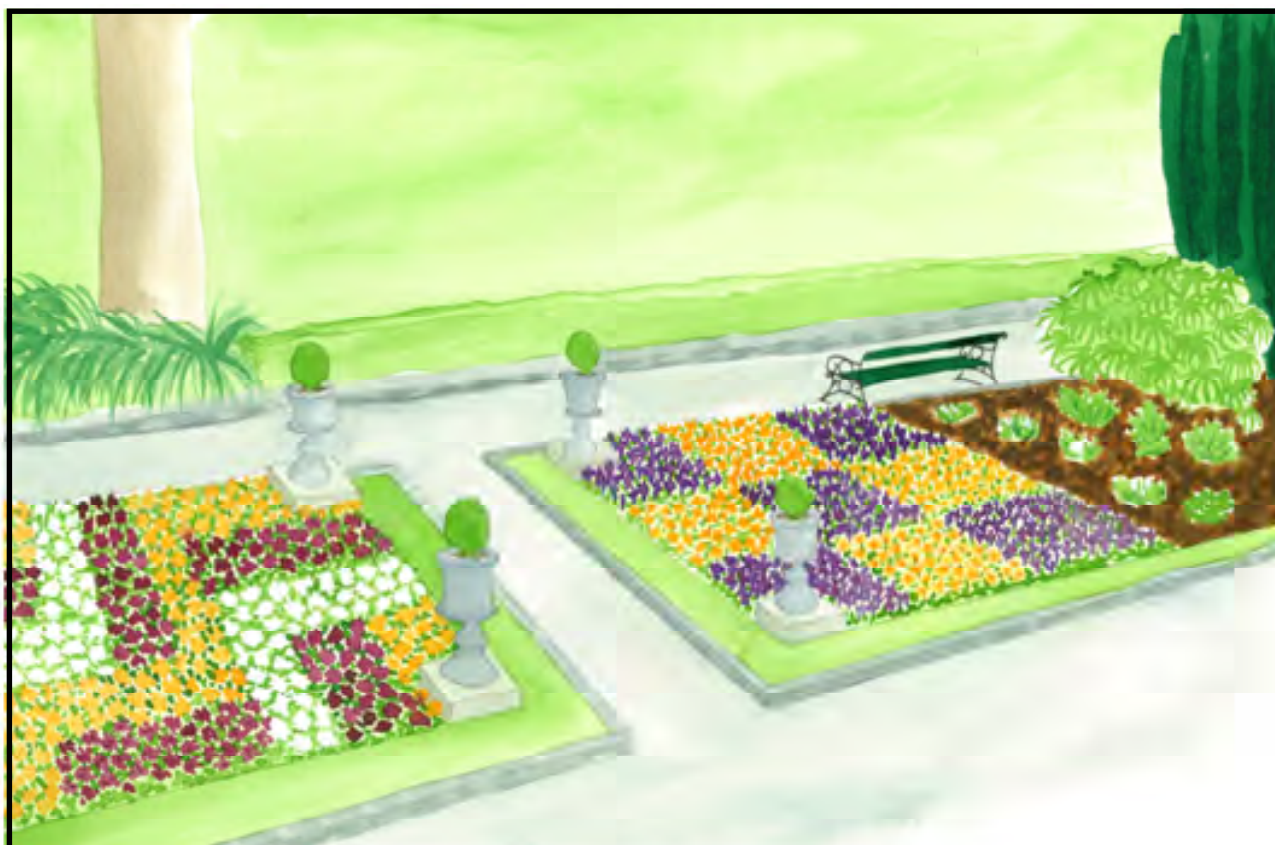
Newsletter

November 2013

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***The Quilted Garden
Summer 2013/14 in the Garden***

Note from the Editor

As a consequence of consecutive and extended absences overseas of both your President and Editor it did not prove possible to produce the usual September issue of the *Newsletter*. I apologise for this. Please note too that in conjunction with this issue of the *Newsletter* papers relating to the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden are being disseminated. I urge all Friends to attend this meeting on Monday, 16 December.

President's Patch

Another year has almost passed - how quickly the seasons turn. As is usual at this time of the year, the Botanic Garden looks a treat. David Sole and his team are to be congratulated on presenting the Garden so well. We have experienced two major storms this spring but there is little or no evidence of any lasting damage and the clean-ups were accomplished in rapid order.

Many of you will have visited the renovated Treehouse. The layout and use of space is much improved. To mark the completion of the re-commissioned Treehouse we assisted Garden management mount an exhibition about John Buchanan, a botanist and artist, who played a key role in the design and early development of the Garden. At a gathering in July for members and friends, Associate Professor Linda Tyler gave a fascinating talk about Buchanan's life and times. He was both a gifted amateur in many fields of science as well as a talented artist and designer. The exhibition provided an insight into the breadth and quality of his work. Subsequent to this exhibition, the Friends helped mount a display of prints of irises which are part of a collection received as a gift from the Italian Embassy some years ago but not displayed until now. The curved display wall in the Treehouse is an ideal location to mount such an exhibition.

Members will receive the Annual General Meeting (AGM) papers together with this Newsletter and will find included the Committee's Annual Report

in which we have attempted to provide a full account of the activities and accomplishments of the society over the period 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013.

The AGM is set for 16 December 2013, at 5.30pm in the Treehouse. The date is rather later than usual, for reasons beyond our control. We recognise that December is not a good time to have an AGM but we do hope you will be able to attend. As will be discussed at the meeting, a major focus of attention for Garden management and for the Friends over the next year will be raising funding for the Children's Garden. David Sole and Katherine Monks who has joined the Garden staff team as Sponsorship Manager will be at the AGM and will be making a presentation to us about the Children's Garden. So I hope to see you then.

At the AGM your Committee is formally elected for the current year. We are of course well into the 2013/14 financial year and the Committee as elected at the AGM held in August 2012 has been continuing to operate on a business as usual basis. But at any stage we can co-opt new members on to the Committee and we can elect new office holders at the AGM. We would welcome any members who would like to make the commitment to join our Committee - the AGM is a good opportunity to formalise any expressions of interest.

Frank Wilson

Botanic Bulletin

It is with a great deal of satisfaction and anticipation that the ball has started rolling in the fundraising campaign for the Children's Garden. Assisted by funding from the Friends, Katherine Monks has been employed as the fundraiser for the project and has gone about her task with infectious enthusiasm. At this stage Katherine is setting the foundations for the

campaign, with the fundraising in earnest beginning in late November. In support of this we have constructed a temporary platform above the site of the proposed garden complete with coloured posts which will be linked to the interpretation panels. School children have drawn pictures of their imagined Children's Garden which will be placed on panels leading to the



platform.

With the Children's Garden campaign under way, the NZ Festival of the Arts Power Plant and cruise ships on weekend days we have decided to open the Treehouse over the weekends from 1 November 2013 through to 30 April 2014. Already I have received offers of assistance from a number of Friends for which I am very grateful. The more people we have the fewer the duties, so if you have an occasional six hours available on a Saturday or Sunday over the summer it would be great to hear from you. Pauline Bradshaw is away on extended leave so we are slightly modifying her position to cover the seven days' opening through until Christmas. I will provide an update via the Friends shortly.

Of course there are other things happening in the garden. Spring Festival went very well despite the early flowering of the tulips. My thanks to those of you who supported the activities during the Festival. Tulip Sunday was a great day with thousands of people in the garden and great support for the Dutch café in the Treehouse. It is very satisfying to see the relationship the Dutch community continuing and being reinvigorated as the reins are handed on between the generations.

The cruise ship season is underway though with a fairly low key start. We hosted two very good training days for the Wellington City Ambassadors, including our own hosts. There were 35 ambassadors at the first day and 45 at the second. The opportunity to provide updates about the garden and for the other attractions was invaluable. The days were all the more memorable because of Danielle Leonard's gold and black iced Wellington gingerbread men!

The recent storms have taken their toll on the garden with many large branches being torn from trees and constant debris throughout the garden. We have been fortunate to lose only one pine above the lower yard. However even the loss of only one tree changes the wind dynamics, increasing the vulnerability of the remaining trees.

Charmaine, Leanne and I, along with Rewi Elliot and Finn Michalak from Otari, were fortunate to attend the 5th World Botanic Garden Congress held in Dunedin in late October. Hosted by Botanic Gardens Conservation International and Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand, the theme was celebrating success. Forty five countries were represented at Congress. Accordingly there

was a wide range of papers - from those of the major gardens such as Missouri and Brooklyn in the US to Kew and Edinburgh in the UK which have significant overseas programmes focusing on capacity building and conservation, to smaller Australasian gardens. The unwavering focus on the importance of plants to life and the leadership role of Botanic Gardens was reassuring as we look to aligning our collections and programmes more closely to conservation and capacity building. In reviewing the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) we are working closely towards Target 8 for *ex situ* conservation, especially at Otari, and the capacity-focussed Targets 15 and 16. Of the 16 targets, we are working towards 13 of the targets in whole or in part.

Alongside the Congress we have had organised visits from Professor Richard Benfield who specialises in garden tourism, and Dr Colin Clubbe and Dr Marcella Corcoran from Kew. We are aware of a few others who also made private visits to the garden. The decision to hold the Congress in Dunedin was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Dunedin Botanic Gardens. There is no doubt that this garden is one of New Zealand's great public gardens. I also had the pleasure of hosting a tour of the garden by members of the Canterbury Horticultural Society in early October.

The paving in front of the Begonia House is complete and is a huge improvement. There is more room for people to move around, more seats and the pergolas make a great contribution to the garden. Once the wisteria and grapes establish they will nicely complement the café area. The formal box hedge and plantings of lemons will complete the picture and leave the Begonia House along with the other work completed over the last two years well placed for many years to come.

Don't forget to book for Power Plant, look out for a great exhibition and display at the Treehouse and Main Gardens in January and take time to come and smell the roses!

I look forward to seeing you at the Friends' AGM.

Kindest regards

*David Sole, on behalf of the
Botanic Garden Team*



William Travers, a “Father” of the Botanic Garden

William Thomas Locke Travers, son of Boyle Travers, a captain in the 95th Regiment of Foot, later Rifle Brigade, and his wife, Caroline Brockman, is said to have been born either on 9 or 19 January 1819 at Castlevew, near Newcastle, County Limerick, Ireland. Mainly brought up in France where his father retired, William was nearly 17 when he completed his education at St Servan’s College, Saint Malo. Travers joined the British Foreign Legion in 1835, serving as a lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of Cavalry of the British Auxiliary Legion of Spain in the Spanish Carlist Wars from 1835 to 1838. For a short time he was aide-de-camp to the leader of his division, General Espartero, Duke of Victoria. He received a decoration for his services.

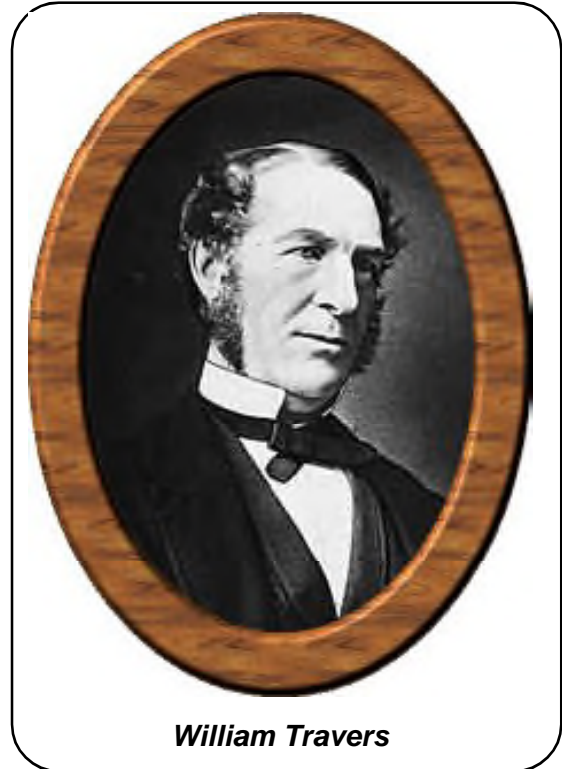
In 1838 the Spanish Revolution ended and Travers chose to study law in London; he was admitted to the Bar about 1844. Over the next five years he practised first at Chipping Camden and later at Evesham. He married Jane Oldham at Cork, Ireland, in 1843; they were to have a son and a daughter. In 1849 William and Jane Travers and their two children embarked on the *Kelso* bound for Nelson, New Zealand, where they arrived on 4 November 1849.

Travers practised law in Nelson, Christchurch and Wellington; he served as resident magistrate in Nelson. He also pursued a fitful political career. He was a member of the House of Representatives for Nelson (1853—54), Waimea (1854—59), Christchurch City (1867—70), and Wellington City (1877—78). He stood unsuccessfully for the superintendency of Nelson in 1855 and Canterbury in 1866, but was a member of the Canterbury Provincial Council in 1867. During his time in Parliament he was, from 31 August to 2 September 1854, a member without portfolio of T. S. Forsaith’s short-lived executive. He is notable for having attempted to make the general government rather than the provinces responsible for education.

It was outside politics, however, that Travers made his mark in New Zealand. He and his son, Henry, explored the Nelson region. He found the source of the Waiau River in the Spenser Mountains, and named the Ada, Henry, Boyle and Anne rivers in the upper Waiau valley. Mt Travers and the Travers

Range bear his name in this area. In the headwaters of the Waia, Travers collected

grasses and alpine flowers, carefully noting the altitude. Much of this plant material was forwarded to Joseph Hooker for the herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Hooker regarded him as an ‘acute collector’. Herbarium specimens collected by Travers are held in Te Papa in Wellington.



William Travers

Travers’s interest in natural history led him to become one of the founders of the New Zealand Institute, drafting the statute under which the institute was established in 1867. He was one of its governors until his death, and from 1888 to 1903 was its treasurer. Travers also drafted the 1869 act establishing the Botanic Garden of Wellington, which was to be managed by the institute. For 22 years he was a member of the Botanic Garden board. At the time of the Botanic Garden Vesting Act 1891, his arguments ensured that the original 13 acre strip of the garden should be managed as a true botanic garden in perpetuity.

Travers published some 40 articles on botany, ornithology, geology and ethnology in the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*. He was a skilled amateur photographer, whose work is now sought after by museums and galleries. Travers edited, and wrote the text for, Charles Barraud’s album of views, *New Zealand: graphic and descriptive* (1877), and in 1889 published



From New Zealand to Lake Michigan, a book of travel impressions mainly of America.

Travers was a keen military volunteer in both Nelson and Canterbury and was gazetted captain (unattached list) on 31 March 1869. In 1874 he was founding president of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society. In the same year, as a member of the board of governors of Wellington College, he supervised a large planting of trees obtained from the Botanic Garden, on the slopes of the Town Belt behind Wellington College.

Travers was one of the first shareholders of the Wellington Gas Company, the Wellington City Steam Tramways Company and the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company. For a time he was City Solicitor. He was adviser to both

the Wellington Woollen Manufacturing Company and the Wellington Patent Slip Company, and urged attention to harnessing the power of the Hutt River. For a time Travers was Vice Consul for France and received from that government the Grand Cross of Cambodia.

Jane Travers died in 1888, and on 9 April 1891 Travers married Theodosia Leslie Barclay at St Peter's Church, Wellington. John Ballance, the Premier, was principal witness. Travers died as the result of an accident at Hutt Railway Station on 27 April 1903, and was accorded eulogies by members of the Bar of the Supreme Court at Wellington and Dunedin.

*1966 An Encyclopaedia of
New Zealand Te Ara*

Plaques and Memorials in the Botanic Garden William John Morris

In memory of a hero

William John Morris

aged 10, who was drowned in a gallant attempt to save his younger brother 30 July 1891

*In as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren
ye did it unto me - Matt 25-40*

location: At the back of the Gazebo (Summerhouse) on William Bramley Drive.
Bronze plaque on seat.





William John Morris lost his life in an attempt to save his younger brother, Joseph aged 8, from drowning in Wellington Harbour. Both boys had decided not to attend school and went to the harbour reclamation at Thorndon to play. Whilst there, Joseph fell in and William, who was an excellent swimmer, dived in to rescue him. A worker named Brown pulled Joseph, quite exhausted, from the water by his ankle but his older brother was nowhere to be seen. Once young Joseph was on dry land Brown looked into the water and saw the brother lying on the seabed and although four nearby men plunged into the water to rescue him he was dead by the time they reached him. William's heroism and selfless act of bravery is quietly commemorated in this peaceful corner of the Botanic Garden. Details from a newspaper report at the time of the accident - *Evening Post*, Volume XLII, Issue 27, 31 July 1891, Page 3.

An interesting memorial recording a tragedy, one of the earliest memorials in the Garden.

Story and Photos:
Phil Tomlinson

The sad fate of the lad William John Morris, who met his death by drowning in the harbour yesterday in a heroic attempt to save his younger brother, Joseph Morris, from drowning, formed the subject of an inquisition by Mr. H. W. Robinson, District Coroner, at the Brunswick Hotel this morning. Mr. William Marshall was chosen foreman of a jury of six. The only evidence of interest adduced was that of Joseph Morris, aged 8 years, brother of deceased, who said William yesterday asked him to "wag it" and go down to the Esplanade. Whilst playing there witness fell into the harbour, and deceased jumped in to rescue him. Witness when he fell in swam on his back, and a man caught him by the leg and pulled him out of the water. When witness got to land he saw his brother under the water quite dead. The deceased was a capital swimmer. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to Accidental Drowning, and that deceased met his death whilst attempting to save the life of his brother Joseph.

The inquest on the boy Morris, drowned yesterday, was of an unsatisfactory nature, owing to the absence of the important evidence of the person who rescued the younger brother. It seems extraordinary that the police, who arranged the enquiry, should not have considered it necessary to secure the information which this person alone could supply, as probably the first to arrive on the scene. In this connection Mr. J. Brown, expressman, who was instrumental in saving the life of the younger of the Morris boys, called upon us this morning, and explained that when he took Joseph Morris out of the water he saw nothing whatever of the other boy. A lady called out to him that a boy had fallen over the breastwork, and when he reached the spot the lad was floating on his back. A young man who came along assisted him in getting the boy on terra firma. Mr. Brown also states that the reason he was not at the inquest this morning is because he was not subpoenaed, or was he aware that the enquiry was taking place.

The Quilted Garden

The Main Garden's 25,000 tulips have made way for the summer bedding – and what a treat we have for you this year!

The Treehouse Visitor Centre will host an exhibition of quilts during January 2014 and the floral beds have been themed to match.

Twice each year the gardeners put a great deal of thought into coming up with new and interesting designs and combinations of plants. Presented with the idea of using quilt patterns for the beds, they enthusiastically set about selecting designs that would work well in the various garden bed shapes. A book of quilt patterns I lent them came back full of post-it notes, so it was clearly a popular project. It is just unfortunate that we only have so many beds to plant patterns in! Then again, planting bedding is hard work so perhaps more is not better.

Then of course came the task of selecting varieties of plants that would thrive – and last the

season. Colours, textures, sizes and heights all had to be considered for the patterns. Some plant varieties that would work well together got rejected if they have a history of succumbing to blackspot or powdery mildew, so the choices were not always as plain as was initially apparent. After all, ideally they need to last all the way from November through to April.

The patterns and block designs include 'flying geese' and 'grandmother's fan', and are set out in combinations of geraniums, salvia, marigolds and begonias, to name just some of the plants used.

Planting began at the beginning of November and the gardeners were thrilled to see how good the design in one of the big beds looked already – the plants were just tiny at that point they will look even more stunning when they've grown together.

*Story by Charmaine Scott
Cover Image by Eleanor Burton*

The Contact season of *Power Plant*

The Botanic Garden will be a centre of attention during the 2014 New Zealand Festival.

Step into an enchanting night time world of light and sound, as five artists transform one of Wellington's most beautiful locations.

More than a walk in the park, this spectacular array of installations has entranced audiences young and old the world over with its "sudden bursts of firefly radiance" (*The Guardian*). Electric flowers whirr, insects of light buzz and propane-powered pyrophones belch flames into the sky in an unforgettable feast for the senses. Open your eyes, open your ears and prepare to be amazed.

Power Plant runs from Friday, 28 February to Sunday, 16 March and tickets cost \$25 - \$55 (exclusive of booking fees).

Festival organisers recommend:

- Please wear comfortable shoes. There are steep hills and steps on the walk.
- We recommend you do not bring buggies or strollers as the track is not suitable in parts.
- Return Cable Car tickets are available for \$6 when you book your *Power Plant* tickets.
- Parking is very limited; please arrange to be dropped off or use public transport if possible.

For more information and to book go to <http://festival.co.nz/power-plant/> or phone Ticketek on Wellington 384 3840 or 0800 842 538.

*Information courtesy of
New Zealand Festival*

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden will be held on **Monday 16 December 2013 at 5.30pm in the Treehouse**, Wellington Botanic Garden.

At the time of publication of the *Newsletter* no notices of Motion have been received. If any member wishes to present a motion it will be dealt with under General Business if a



majority of members present at the meeting agree.

As Friends will know, all officers and committee members are elected annually at the AGM. Nominations should be made in writing to the Secretary at least seven days before the AGM (not later than 9 December 2013) (address

details at end of *Newsletter*). Please note that signatures are required from the Candidate, the Proposer and Seconder, and all three must be financial members of the Friends.

All members and prospective members are welcome. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Coming Events

6-31 January, The Quilted Garden

A display of quilts will be on show in the Treehouse Visitor Centre in January – and our gardeners have designed floral beds to match, with quilt patterns, in the Main Garden.

Sunday 19 January, 11am West Way winners

The trees featured on this walk all have an interesting story to tell. Meet at the Duck Pond for this 90-minute moderate to energetic walk with an uphill section. Cost: \$4.

Monday 27 January, 11am The summer Herb Garden

A tour of the Herb Garden at its best, looking at the fragrant, medicinal, culinary and domestic uses of herbs. Meet at the fountain in the Rose Garden for this easy 75-minute walk with one uphill section. Cost: \$4.

Sunday 16 February, 11am Insects, birds and plants

Insects and birds, and their relationships with native and introduced plants. Meet at the Founders' Entrance, Glenmore Street for this moderate 90-minute walk with one uphill section. Cost: \$4.

Monday 24 February, 11am Plants of the Ancient Greeks

Step back in time to Ancient Greece and discover the plants they used for food, clothing, fuel, building houses and boats, and medicine, and the important role of plants in their culture and beliefs. Meet at the fountain in the Rose Garden for this 90-minute moderate to energetic walk with an uphill section. Cost: \$4.

Sunday 16 March, 11am Creepy-crawlies

On this walk we hear about the creepy-crawlies in the Garden and the secrets of their lives. Meet at the Founders' Entrance, Glenmore Street for this moderate 60-minute walk. Cost: \$4.

Monday 24 March, 11am Dinner in the Garden

A walk with a difference! Join us for a virtual meal in the Main Garden, and you may be surprised to discover the many products that trees and plants provide. In addition to timber, you can obtain delicacies such as chocolate, salads, sugar, chewing gum, many exotic drinks, and items such as ink, writing materials, food wrap and more. Meet at the Duck Pond for this moderate 75-minute walk. Cost: \$4.

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