

## *Newsletter*

*March 2013*

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***Plaque donated by Lady Bird Johnson, wife of the President  
of the United States following her 1966 visit  
to the Botanic Garden***

## President's Patch

I outlined in my column in the December 2012 Newsletter the major activities your committee is working on. Having reviewed what I said then, I find there is not a great deal new to be added. This is not because we have been sitting on our hands - that would be unfair to committee members who are devoting time and energy to taking forward these various projects. But it is a reflection of the time it takes to get good projects off the ground. I will therefore make this report brief and highlight where our efforts are being directed.

Under the leadership of Richard Nanson, and in close cooperation with Garden management, we are closely investigating a new technical solution as regards permanent downhill path markers. Some years ago the Friends committed to help the Garden install markers on the downhill path route. And as members will be well aware, Wellington is enjoying an influx of visitors from the many cruise ships arriving at our port. A prime activity for these visitors is to take the Cable Car up to the Skyline and walk back down through the Garden to the City. At present the downhill path is marked with painted crimson decals. Due to wear and tear, these decals have to be repainted every six weeks or so - a time

consuming and inefficient process. What is needed are highly visible, non slip, permanent markers. We have looked at a number of possible materials but so far without finding an entirely satisfactory solution. But Richard and his group are following up on a new and innovative way forward.

Looking back, I should mention that we had a good turnout at the members' evening on 21 February. David Sole spoke about the renovation of the Treehouse and Shane Perry introduced his fractal photos of plants in the Garden. It was evident from the questions asked of Shane that some amongst us are experienced photographers

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see a notice for a Workshop on the ten-year management plan for the Garden, to take place on 18 April. I hope members will take a chance to review this notice and, if possible, come to the Workshop. This is our chance to have an input into influencing the development of the next ten years of our Garden.

I look forward to seeing you on 18 April.

*Frank Wilson*

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## Botanic Bulletin

Firstly, thank you for the Friends' evening on 21 February. It was a great opportunity for me to provide insight to the Friends on the improvements to the Treehouse. But more fascinating was Shane Perry's talk about his persistence to get the right photograph and the unusual array of tools he used. The exhibition has been very well received by visitors to the Treehouse.

The drought is starting to bite throughout the garden now. Trees are increasingly under stress, shrub plantings are suffering and this rotation of bedding will come to an early end. Water restrictions are now severe with only the Begonia House and nursery permitted to use water. All water features have now been turned off, some drained and no washing down of any kind is permitted for other than public health reasons. The extent of the drought is almost unprecedented in living memory and will continue to affect the garden for long

after the drought has broken. On the positive side we should continue to think ourselves lucky to live in what is normally a temperate climate whereas in other parts of the world this is the daily norm of life.

I am well through the planning and design stages of preparing for the renewal of the paving in front of the Begonia House. We hope that this will be going out to tender in the next couple of weeks. If there is sufficient funding we will extend the project to the installation of two, long talked about, pergolas over the gardens in front of the Begonia House. This project, along with asphalt renewals and resurfacing in the toilets will set the Begonia House and its surrounds in good stead for many years to come.

This early part of the year has seen staff attend and present at a number of conferences including the Plants, People and Parks Conference, The International Plant Propagators Society



Conference, the New Zealand Rhododendron Association Conference and, late last year, the Herb Society and Rose Society Conferences. It is important that staff attend and participate in conferences with their peers to maintain the communities of interest and to gain new knowledge and skills. In addition to this, Otari staff have recently been seed collecting in the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges and Curator Finn Michalak, courtesy of the OWB Trust, is about to head to Stewart Island and parts of Southland to collect more seed for the Otari collections.

While there will be more detail later in the newsletter, a quick reminder of the Botanic Garden, Anderson Park and Bolton Street Memorial Park 2002 Management Plan review that is now under way. It is proposed also to bring the 1996 Truby King Park and the 2007 Otari management plans in under one umbrella management plan with Botanic Garden and Bolton Street – though where necessary each garden will be treated individually within the plan. Please take the time to review the management plan and, if you can, attend the pre-public consultation workshop. We value your views and contribution to the garden.

We are making steady progress in the development of the fundraising programme for the Children's Garden. The strategy has been developed and while there are some technical hoops to go through, we are on the way! Promotional material is being developed and

further information will be placed in the Treehouse and the Begonia House. We will be seeking Corporate and Philanthropic support as well as from 'mum and dad' contributors. The more we work our way into the project the more excited I become as its potential to work with children and families becomes clearer and clearer.

You will have seen from the media that pay and display car parking has again been proposed by Council. At the time of writing it looks as if it will make it to the Draft Annual Plan. Once it is released, please take the time to review the DAP and make your submissions. Council is under pressure on a range of financial fronts so your views on its priorities are more important than ever.

A big thank you to the hosts and guides for the cruise ship hosting programme over the summer. It hasn't been without its difficulties but, at the risk of repeating myself from previous newsletters, it is a service greatly appreciated by our visitors and contributes to what makes this garden and this city great.

Looking forward to seeing you at the management Plan workshop and lookout for Harvest Festival on 28 April,

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

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## Review of the Combined Management Plan 2002 Workshop with Friends of the Botanic Garden

As advised in the December 2012 *Newsletter*, a review of the **Combined Management Plan 2002** for Anderson Park, Bolton Street Memorial Park and Wellington Botanic Garden got under way with staff consultation in the first week of December. The Council has now begun a wider consultation process, and to this end has provided the following *Notice of Meeting*:

### Draft Agenda

(Please note that this is only a draft agenda and it will be finalised at a later date).

- **Date:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013

- **Venue:** Wellington Botanic Garden - Treehouse Visitor Centre
- **Time:** 5.30pm
- **Format:**
  - Brief Introduction
  - Identifying Strategic Roles
  - Considering key issues and opportunities
  - Considering our Priorities
  - Building Strategic relationships
  - Summary and close of workshop



## 1. Introduction

The Council has started to review the three reserve management plans covering the four Wellington Botanic Gardens and incorporate these plans into one document.

The four Botanic Gardens/parks are the Wellington Botanic Garden, Bolton Street Memorial Park, Otari Wilton's Bush and Truby King Park.

The plans to be reviewed include;

The Combined Management Plan for the Botanic Garden, Anderson Park and Bolton St Memorial Park 2002

The Truby King Park Conservation and Management Plan 1993

The Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve Management Plan 2007

The purpose of the workshop is to explain briefly the project including key milestones and timeframes, and to obtain members' ideas regarding the Botanic Garden's strategic purpose and role, identify the key issues, opportunities and the top priorities for Botanic Garden over the next 10 years.

The feedback will be used along with feedback from other stakeholders to help develop a discussion document for public consultation. Officers will seek Council approval to review the

management plans and release a discussion document for public consultation in August 2013.

## 2. What we want from members?

Help the Council determine the Wellington Botanic Garden strategic purpose and identify the key issues, opportunities and the top priorities for Botanic Garden over the next 10 years.

We would appreciate your thoughts and feedback on the following questions.

2.1. What do you love about the Wellington Botanic Garden?

2.2. Strategically, what do you think the Wellington Botanic Garden should be about?

2.3. How well does the Wellington Botanic Garden we have today match this expectation?

2.4. What are the key issues facing the Wellington Botanic Garden over the next 10 years?

2.5. What should our priorities be for the Garden over the next 10 years and why?

2.6. Do you have any ideas how we could work with some of the other Wellington natural attractions?

## 3. What happens next?

This will be discussed further at the workshop.

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## Plaques and Memorials in the Botanic Garden

Our garden has many interesting features. One, not widely appreciated, is the many plaques and memorials found scattered throughout the whole area. While many are memorials to individuals about whom little is publically known, there are many that tell a fascinating story, with others recording important historical incidents related to the Garden.

Garden volunteer guide Sheena Bennett first ran a guided walk looking at many of these memorials, and both Sheena and I have run a number since, all enthusiastically received. It was during the preparation of material for these walks that it was

realised there were many stories worth telling and recording for the future.

One of Sheena's sons, James Davenport, is a computer programmer, and after some discussion it was realised that a database of the material would be worthwhile. Initially it was thought that a standalone system in the Treehouse, accessible to all might be best, but on more serious reflection we realised that the Friends' web-site provided the best solution, and would allow the most convenient and widespread access. The Memorials Register was launched in May 2010. The response from the public has been much greater than anticipated, with

currently some 1,500 to 2,000 visitors to the site a month, viewing 5,000 to 6,000 pages, with numbers steadily increasing. For 2012, total recorded visitors numbered over 13,500. What has been surprising has been the location of visitors. While New Zealanders were obvious, some 30% come from the United States and Canada. Other significant numbers of visitors are from Australia, and from Germany, France and UK, but unexpectedly also from countries such as Croatia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Estonia, and Poland. Asia is represented, with a number from Singapore, Indonesia and Japan. It makes one wonder what attracts many of these to the site.

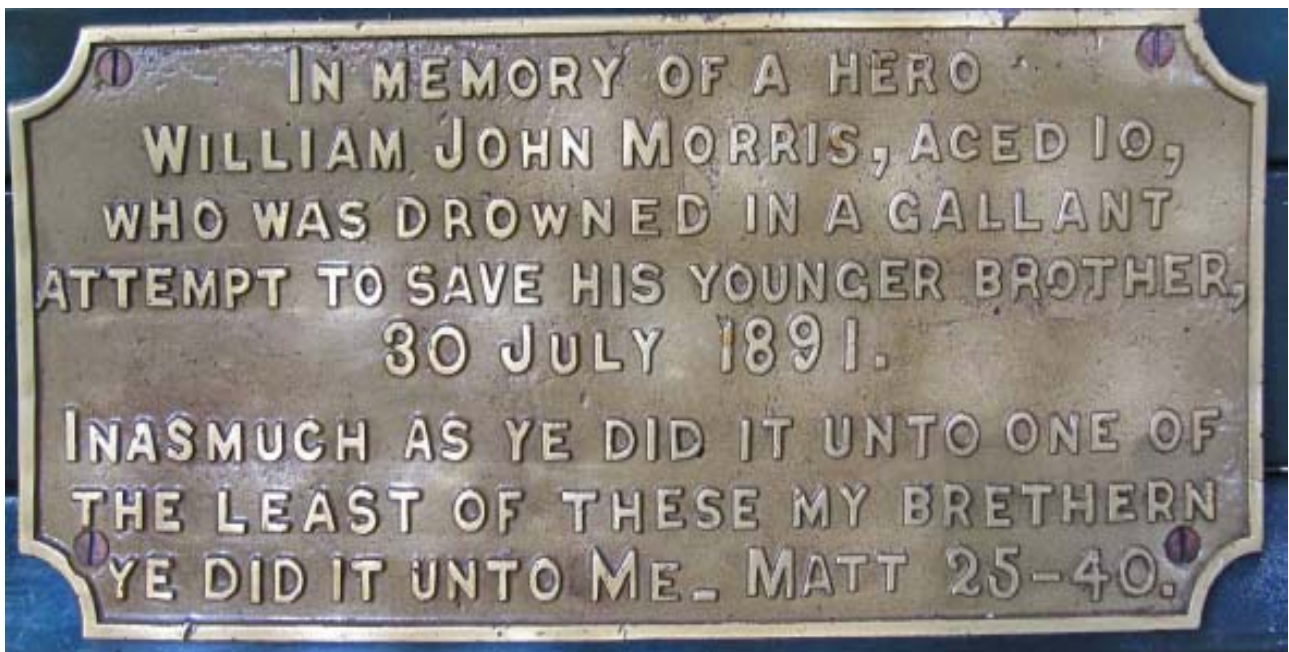


and can be difficult to find. Every one was photographed – the location, seat or tree involved, and plaque. It was during this process that it was discovered that some recorded by the garden had not in fact been installed, or had been lost over the years, and a number of these have since been erected (2012), although there are more that should be added in future.

Building the database was quite an exercise, but much useful information was held by Peter Tjisen and Neil Christensen, who provided the base material, and their assistance is much appreciated. A number of other staff were able to fill in some gaps. Once the basic data capture was completed, former Friends President Ted Woodfield also walked the Garden, checking the records and finding some that we had missed. Some are located in remote parts of the Garden,

Currently the database contains 270 records. These comprise:

Seat Plaques	131
Information plaques	62
Trees- memorial and commemorative	45
Plants - commemorative	5
Plants - donations	27



One of the earliest recorded events, but with the plaque only just installed, was the 1917 Arbour Day planting of the *Puriri* in the Main Garden. Two record Royal events; the planting of *Metrosideros bartlettii* by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, and the Welsh Society commemorating the investiture of the Prince of Wales. Another records the contribution of Women to Science, and one 100 years of Woman's Suffrage and the appointment of the first female apprentice to the Garden.

Of the art works the Campbell Wall Tiles are detailed as is the Cowan lamp. There is also interesting correspondence associated with the Canadian Sugar Maples from a sailor from one of the Canadian warships visiting at the time. There are also several trees recorded with human remains buried, although details are unknown.

A number of trees and plants are noted, recording donations. Some roses and others have been removed for several reasons, or have died. The Trees For Children scheme is recorded, although no plaques have been attached to the trees involved. Some plaques note information, the Krupp Gun, Herb Garden and Treehouse Kauri being the main ones, but also the sculptures. The latest plaque marks the seat of Basil, the ever popular and widely photographed garden cat who recently died.

The tragic story of 10 year old John William Morris who died trying to save his brother from drowning in the harbour in 1891 is recorded in the earliest memorial. So is the plaque presented by Lady Bird Johnson, wife of the President of the United States, following her October 1966 visit to the Garden, in appreciation of her visit to the Begonia House. The 'Quaker' Mason plaque marking an oak from his early Taita garden and the register provide information on this significant donor to the garden, and his work with Alfred Ludlam during the Garden's formative years.

While we believe most plaques have been found, if you find any that are not shown, or have interesting information on any, please contact me via the web site. New plaques and memorials will be recorded as installed.

In future editions of this newsletter it is planned to publish details of some interesting and historic plaques

The Plaques and Memorials Register can be accessed from the menu on the Friends' Web site, or directly from <http://memorials.friendswbg.org.nz/>.

Enjoy!

Story and Photos: Phil Tomlinson

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## ***Pinus Radiata* in New Zealand**

In 1787 it is recorded that a cone of a tree to be later called *Pinus radiata* was sent from Monterey to Paris and 12 seedlings were raised, but unfortunately none survived. Thomas Coulter at Monterey, California first noted *Pinus radiata* in 1830. It appears that *radiata* first came into successful cultivation when, in 1833, seeds and specimens collected by the Scottish explorer David Douglas, a gardener employed by the Horticultural Society of London, were sent to England. They were grown in the Society's garden at Chiswick.

Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) is the most widely planted pine in the world. Rapid growth and desirable lumber and pulp qualities cause it to be the leading introduced species in Australia, New Zealand, and Spain and a major species in

the plantations of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Kenya, and the Republic of South Africa. In these countries Monterey

pine is a mainstay of the forest economy, serving internal markets, generating valuable foreign exchange reserves as an export, and reducing cutting pressure on native forests.

*Pinus radiata* shows great variability between individual trees. Scientists have shown that this genetic variation gives the species the potential for genetic improvement through selective breeding. This has been achieved in New Zealand, where naturalised stocks have formed the base of an elaborate and scientifically based selection programme. While intensive breeding began around 1950, the story of genetic improvement in New Zealand begins with the introduction of the species.

New Zealand's prosperity has depended for many years on the export of timber. The New Zealand industry was from the start firmly based on the kauri tree, although other natives were

also important. Captain James Cook, on his first visit (1768-1771) to this country, wrote a glowing report about “*the great length of the trees, growing straight as an arrow and tapered very little in proportion to their length.*” With the loss of the American colonies, Britain had lost its main source of timber, especially that suitable for masts and spars, and Cook’s reports provided a solution, especially when he reported that NZ was covered by timber of a “*size and every quality that indicates long duration; it grows close to the water’s edge and may be easily obtained.*” Cook felled and pit sawed into planks the first tree on his second voyage (1772 - 1775). The earliest European extraction, however, occurred when Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne’s men hauled a large tree trunk out of the bush in the Bay of Islands in 1772. The first export shipment of timber was dispatched from the country in October 1794, but domestic demand took the earlier production.

To facilitate timber extraction, bullocks were brought in to the country in 1820, and over the next 40 years with improved extraction methods the indigenous stands of timber disappeared altogether from many areas, and became seriously depleted in others. Scholefield noted that in 1871 over three million board feet (1 board foot = approximately 30cm wide, 2.5cm thick and 30cm long) of timber were exported, but by 1891 this had increased to forty two million board feet. At that time there were reported to be some 250 sawmills processing native trees throughout the colony.

In 1870 James Hector made the following statement in reply to a question from the Government: “*the rapid destruction of the native forests I consider to be most wasteful, and is having the effect of rapidly reducing the natural resources of the country.*” His concern on this issue had been one of the reasons for the earlier establishment of the Wellington Botanic Garden as was the need to find suitable trees to replace the increasingly depleted native stock, especially with the increasing population giving rise to expanding demand for timber and firewood, which could no longer be met from the indigenous stock.

The earliest settlers on parts of the tussock covered land lacking trees, especially the Canterbury Plains, found a need for trees for firewood and to provide shelter from the prevailing winds for stock and homesteads. The

first significant tree planting are believed to have been by anonymous settlers and transients, especially gold miners returning from the Californian gold fields, who brought with them seeds of trees they found there, especially *Pinus radiata* and *Cypresses macrocarpa* although this is not documented.

J.B.A. Acland on Mt. Peel Station in the Canterbury foothills is credited with the first documented importation of *Pinus radiata*. Acland’s 1859 importation of one three year old radiata from N.S.W. nurseryman Thos Shepherd, a tree still extant in 1990, stands as the first record for radiata in N.Z. Equally important is Acland’s 1859 introduction of seed from Veitch probably collected by Lobb in Monterey. Having returned from his home in Devon that year, Acland could well have been enthusiastic about the success of Lobb’s seed there. If he returned via Sydney it could account for his purchase from Thos. Shepherd. It raises an interesting question as to whether this enthusiasm may be central to early Canterbury *radiata* introduction. The first milling of *radiata* was reported by a Canterbury man (unfortunately undated), indicating likely confirmation of the early planting of *radiata* in that area.



This tree, in the Christchurch Botanic Garden, is believed to have been planted in 1860 and is thought to be a companion tree to that imported by Acland in 1859. Both trees are probably the oldest pines in NZ with a reasonably documented history. Photo taken in the late 1980s.

By 1865 Shepherd states both Alfred Ludlam and Thomas Mason had established *Pinus radiata* in Wellington and it is likely that they could have made plantings of this tree in the Garden from about this time, although no documentary proof of this has been discovered. There are a number of recorded introductions throughout the country in the early 1860's. Ludlam in particular appears to have had a significant collection of pine species, although Mason also had a number. Ludlam is recorded as receiving *radiata* material in 1863, Mason in 1865, and Hector in 1868/69. It is understood that following the appointment of James Hector as Scientific Advisor to the Central Government in 1865, work was being done in the Garden by these individuals and John Buchanan before its formal establishment in 1868. Hector is likely to have seen the tree growing in various parts of the country, and realising how successful *radiata* appeared to be establishing in the country, subsequently resulted in the importation of large quantities of *Pinus radiata* seed and plants to the Garden at the end of the decade and 1870's. Plants and seed were subsequently distributed throughout the country, to individuals, public gardens and acclimatisation societies, eventually providing the 'parents' of New Zealand's *radiata* forest industry, as confirmed by recent DNA analysis of specimens still in the Garden.

David Hay (1815–1883) a nurseryman in Auckland is credited with the first commercial introduction to New Zealand of *Pinus radiata*. In his 1860 catalogue only European conifers are mentioned, but from 1862 this began to change. It is likely that, initially, Hay's *radiata* pine and other American conifer plants were imported from Shepherd and Company of Sydney, thought to

have been the first Australian nursery to stock *Pinus radiata*. There is no evidence of a direct American link at this stage, but a price drop in the seeds advertised in Hay's 1872 catalogue suggests that he was importing direct from America by this time, as were nurseries in other centres – William Martin and George Matthews in Dunedin, William Wilson and others in Christchurch, William Hale in Nelson, Robert Pharazyn in Wanganui and the Mason brothers in Auckland.

*Pinus radiata* provided many advantages – it grows straight, grows rapidly, is easy to handle, grows well in plantations, is adaptable to most NZ conditions, and provides wood that is remarkably versatile. Its seeds can be collected throughout the year, it transplants easily and requires little care thereafter, responding well to pruning and thinning and can readily be treated with preservatives. Its ability to produce a high quality long fibred pulp adds to its value. Genetically variable it responds well to selective breeding improvement.

In a nutshell, this is the success story of *Pinus radiata*. This Garden played a central role, meeting its founding objective as a 'colonial garden' to facilitate the establishment of the forestry industry. Pioneers like Hector, Ludlam and Mason amongst others deserve full recognition for the crucial role they played in the introduction of this tree in particular, a tree on which the country's prosperity still depends to such a significant degree. It is an important timber tree in several parts of the world, and the number one timber tree in NZ.



*The James Hector Pinetum in today's Botanic Garden*



As a final observation, we should note that often seen under the pines in autumn is the red toadstool *Amanita muscaria*, a poisonous mycorrhizal partner growing on pine roots. This has worldwide distribution, and is the toadstool of fairy tale fame in European literature. It is small but a giant to 'the little people'.

**PRINCIPAL SOURCES:**

Shepherd, Winsome; *Early Importations of Pinus Radiata to New Zealand and Distribution in Canterbury to 1885: Implications for the Genetic Makeup of Pinus Radiata Stocks.*

<http://friendswbg.org.nz/PinusRadiataNewZealand.pdf>

Shepherd, Winsome and Cook, Walter; *The Botanic Garden, Wellington A New Zealand History 1840 – 1987*; Publisher Milwood Press, Wellington NZ, 291B Tinakori Rd, Thorndon, Wellington Published 1988 ISBN 0-908582-79-X.

Druett, Joan; *Exotic Intruders* <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-DruExot.html> (especially Chapter Three — The Agricultural Invasion)

*Story and photographs: Phil Tomlinson*

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## Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden Bulb Order 2013

Visitors to the Botanic Garden in September were treated to a beautiful display of tulips. The beds of many harmonising colours attracted the most attention of all, and set out below is a list of some of the tulips in those mixed beds.

**An order form is attached at the end of this *Newsletter*.**



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**TULIPS: 5 bulbs for \$5-00**

**Leen van der Mark** Cherry red edged white

**Boccherini** - Lilac/purple

**Apricot Beauty** - coral/apricot

**Lily Schreyer** - yellow

**Francoise** - creamy white

**Carola** - cherry pink

**Other beds using two strongly contrasting colours:**

**Isle de France** - the reddest red of all and  
**White Dream** - pure white

**Black Diamond** - very dark purple/black and  
**Strong Gold** - golden yellow

**Gerrit van der Valk** - red with spectacular wide gold borders (planted by itself near the entrance)

**Tulips new to the Garden**

**Ronaldo** - deep carmine crimson smoky sheen

**Orange Princess** - peony orange with purple flare

**Honeymoon** - white fringed

**Other favourites:**

**Pretty Woman** - red lily

**Springgreen** - white with green flare

**Angelique** - peony apple blossom pink

**Donna Bella** - a shorty - cream, carmine patch and leaves spotted dashed purple.

**SPECIE CROCUS: 10 bulbs for \$5-00**

**Cream Beauty** - rich cream

**Firefly** - pale violet, yellow throat

**Prinz Claus** - white with broad purple stripes

**KAPITI COAST BULBS:**

**Petticoat daffodils** (N bulbocodium): \$3 for 10

**Freesia Burtonii**: \$2 for 10

**Ixia**: pink, yellow or white \$2 for 5

**Tritonia Crocata**: orange freesia-like flower \$3 for 10

**Ferraria crispa** (starfish lily): \$3 for 5

**White Watsonias** and **Crocsmia Lucifer**: both \$2 for 5 bulbs

**WELLINGTON** grown NZ Heritage **Urenika Potato**: 10 for \$5-00



## Coming Events

### **Saturday, 20 April, 10.00am – 2.00pm** **Berhampore Nursery Open Day**

Emerson Street, Berhampore. The Berhampore Nursery is where Wellington City Council grows trees and plants for our parks, gardens and reserves. The annual open day is the once-a-year opportunity for the public to have a behind-the-scenes look. This year's theme is 'Under threat' – focussing on threatened species – and there will be displays, talks, free advice and a plant sale.

For talk times see [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz) - search 'Berhampore Nursery'

### **Sunday, 21 April, 11 am** **Autumn colour and poems**

Celebrate the special colours and mood of the season on this moderate 75-minute walk. Meet at the Cable Car entrance. Cost: \$4.

### **Monday, 22 April, 11 am** **Plants of the Ancient Egyptians**

The Egyptians, both in ancient times and today, have always adored flowers. The ancient Egyptians had an extensive knowledge of the healing properties of plants. If you had to be ill in ancient times, probably the best place to be would have been Egypt. They also relied on plants for writing material and clothing. Meet at the Duck Pond for this easy 80-minute walk with one uphill section. Cost: \$4.

### **School holiday programme**

Meet our curators, tour the nursery and find out what goes on in the undergrowth at the Botanic Garden and Otari-Wilton's Bush.

10am–12 noon

*Botanic Garden: Tuesdays 23 and 30 April, Thursday 2 May*

*Otari: Wednesdays 24 April and 1 May*  
Suit ages 5–12 (no younger)

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Bookings essential, phone: 499 1400 or email: [treehouse@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:treehouse@wcc.govt.nz).

### **Sunday, 28 April, 10am–3pm, Treehouse** **Harvest Festival**

Get the best out of what you grow. There will be information or talks on:

- making jam, jelly, relish and preserves – bring your favourite recipes
- looking out for our bees
- backyard chook keeping
- community gardens and orchards
- Local Food Network

**Home-Grown vegetable Contest** – enter your best veges and fruit in this fun competition, to be judged by our very own Richard Nanson.

Categories: Biggest pumpkin; Ugliest pumpkin; Most unusual pumpkin; Basket of vegetables (min three varieties); Basket of fruit (min three varieties); Vegetable person (for kids).

Contest entry forms and talks schedule, see [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz).

### **Sunday 19 May 11am** **Trees for flavour and health**

On this walk we look at some of the trees and shrubs that have fragrant, medicinal, culinary and domestic uses. Meet at the Duck Pond for this easy 75 - 80 minute walk with one uphill section. Cost: \$4.

### **Monday, 27 May, 11am** **Early days in the Main Garden – of men and plants**

Hear interesting stories from the early days of Wellington and the Botanic Garden on this easy 75-minute walk. Meet at the Founders' Entrance (main gate), Glenmore Street. Cost: \$4.

### **Glow in the dark glow worm tours** **Fridays 12 April, 10 May, 7 June, 5 July,** **7.30pm**

Meet at the Founders' Entrance on



Glenmore Street for this fascinating tour into the world of the glow-worm. The tour takes about one hour. Please bring a torch. |Cost: Adults \$5, children under 12 free.

**Sunday, 16 June, 9.30am – Meet the Curator Celebrating Matariki at Otari – traditional Māori kai**

Venue: Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre.

On a walk through Otari, hear about how some of our native plants are used for food, then enjoy a taste. Bookings essential – phone: 04 499 1400 or email [treehouse@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:treehouse@wcc.govt.nz)  
Cost: \$5.

**Sunday, 16 June, 11am  
Reflecting on time**

This year the winter solstice is on June 21. Visit the Botanic Garden sundials and enjoy poems about time on this moderate, 75-minute solstice walk. Meet at the Cable Car entrance.  
Cost: \$4

**Sunday, 23 June, 1pm/2pm  
Meet the curator - Rose pruning day**

Let the experts help you to grow gorgeous roses in your garden.

For *modern roses*, meet at the fountain in the Lady Norwood Rose Garden at 1pm.

For *heritage roses*, meet at the Seddon Memorial in Bolton Street Memorial Park at 2pm.

The pruning demonstrations will be held in the Begonia House if it rains.  
Free.

**Monday, 24 June, 11am  
The Rose Garden and its amazing story**

The Lady Norwood Rose Garden was not always the beautiful garden that it is today. Meet in the Begonia House foyer for this 60-minute stroll. If it's wet the talk will take place in the Begonia House.  
Cost: \$4.

**Sunday, 30 June, 11am  
Meet the curator - Threatened species**

*Pinus radiata* is the backbone of New Zealand's timber industry and yet it is a threatened species in its native California. The Botanic Garden's curator of trees will reveal old and new threats to some of the exotic and native plant species. Venue: Starts at the Founders' Entrance (main gates), Glenmore Street.  
Free

**Sunday, 21 July, 11am  
History and trees**

Find out fascinating facts about some of our historic trees on this 90-minute guided walk through the Botanic Garden. It starts at the Cable Car entrance and ends at the Founders' Entrance (main gates). The walk is mostly downhill.  
Cost: \$4

**Monday, 22 July, 11am  
Our winter garden**

There's more to it than just begonias – find out on this gentle 60-minute winter stroll in the warmth of the Begonia House.  
Cost: \$4

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