



P.O. Box 28-065,  
Kelburn, Wellington 6150

## *Newsletter*

*December 2009*

*Featuring: New faces  
January event  
Redwoods at home*

***Welcome: the  
2009-10 Friends  
committee***



***Welcome:  
the Green Islands  
sculpture***



## President's Patch

At the Annual General Meeting of the Friends held on 26 September 2009, I had the honour to be elected President for the forthcoming year. I take on this role with due humility as I am by no means an expert in things botanical, and also because I have been a committee member of the Friends for a relatively short time. However with the help and support of the new Committee and the broader membership of the Friends, I will do my best to continue the good work Ted has carried forward during his term as President.

According to its Constitution the objectives of the Friends are:

- to foster interest in, and to promote and support, the development of the Wellington Botanic Garden in conjunction with the management
- to foster interest in the educational, historical, cultural, recreational and scientific functions of the Botanic Garden
- to assist the Council acquire funds and assets for special projects
- to assist with technical advice where appropriate and possible

These objectives are clear enough and will continue to be the on going focus for the activities

of the FOWBG. My role, as I see it, is to help guide the Friends to achieve these goals.

I should like to pay tribute to the outstanding contribution made by Ted Woodfield during his five-year term as President. Were it not for the Constitutional provision limiting his term to five years he would undoubtedly have been re-elected President again this year. Ted has dedicated himself to the affairs of the Friends during his term as President and under his leadership the Friends have achieved much. The good news is that Ted is continuing as a member of the Committee so we will have the ongoing benefit of his knowledge, sage advice and valuable experience. I am sure all Friends' members will wish to join me in thanking Ted for his tremendous work as President of the Friends of Wellington Botanic Garden.

Finally can I congratulate the other members of the committee on their election and say I look forward to working with you and the wider membership over the coming year. I should add that I would welcome feedback, comments and suggestions from all members about how the Friends can better achieve the goals outlined above.

*Frank Wilson*

## Botanic Bulletin

The year has marched on with astonishing haste. It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating Spring Festival, the tulip display and the presentations from Jan Pennings. Many thanks to the Friends and Guides for their assistance with another successful Spring Festival. It was a disappointment for us not to receive New Zealand Community Trust funding for the first time in many years. It is probably a sign of the times and signals that we may have to think a little differently about Spring Festival in the future. However tulips will continue to be the centrepiece of the festival.

In the same breath I must acknowledge the sudden and sad passing of Her Excellency, the Ambassador to New Zealand for the Kingdom of

the Netherlands, Annelies Boogaardt, who was so supportive of the Dutch community and Spring Festival in the Botanic Garden. It was always a pleasure to host Annelies in the garden.

The roses are looking stunning already this year, which is a tribute to the team and also to the long-term work with Integrated Pest Management plus the work that continues with the structure of the soils and encouragement of soil microbial activity. Good strong horticultural practice continues to contribute to this very high quality and high profile display of roses.

A team of nine staff recently spent the weekend visiting Taranaki gardens and Clive Higgie's



garden 'Paloma' at Fordell. Clive's guided tour of his garden was a real treat and one has to wonder just how much farming he gets done when you see the size of the garden. His cacti and succulent collection is truly remarkable. Manager Chris Connolly led us around Pukekura Park which is, without doubt, one of the great public gardens of New Zealand. While the Rhododendron Festival had finished the week before, the park was still a riot of rhododendron colour. We were also able to see one of the kauri which appears to have been attacked by *Phytophthora*, with gum exudates very obvious around the root collar and the canopy of the tree in decline. With the severe infestations throughout Northland this is going to be a very difficult disease to manage and we will have to watch our own trees carefully.

We have been very fortunate in being able to obtain funding to secure the acquisition of the *Green Islands* four-plinths sculpture currently located on the Te Papa-Circa Theatre plaza on the waterfront. These remarkable wire interpretations of native plants will be placed on new plinths on the zigzag between the Herb Garden and the Lady Norwood Rose Garden in early January and officially unveiled on 28 January at an event jointly hosted by the Council, the Friends and the Wellington Sculpture Trust. The work, which will be a valuable contribution to

the sculpture trail, is by Regan Gentry, who is increasingly receiving international attention.

Construction of the nursery has gone out to tender with submissions, due on 16 December 2009. It has been a long path to get to this and I am delighted that we are finally able to get this project underway. The plants will be transferred to Berhampore Nursery in March 2010, with demolition and construction starting shortly after that. Completion is anticipated for September 2010.

Congratulations to Frank Wilson who has taken on the role of President of the Friends and my thanks to Ted Woodfield who has so ably held the position over the past few years. My thanks also to the Friends' board for the work they have put into the garden over the year and to the Hosts and Guides who contribute so much to the visitor experience in the garden. We look forward to working with you all again over the coming year.

On behalf of the team I convey our best wishes to you all for the Christmas season and the New Year.

*Regards*  
*David Sole*

## **Annual General Meeting 2009**

A well attended Annual General Meeting in the Treehouse on Saturday 26 September dealt quickly with the formal business; elected a new committee, and heard two excellent talks by the manager of the Garden, David Sole, and our guest speaker Jan Pennings, renowned Dutch bulb grower.

Our Patron John Norwood and his wife had travelled down from Taupo to attend the meeting and to accept reappointment for a further term. John recalled the long association of the Norwood family with the Botanic Garden and recorded his appreciation for the activities and work of the Friends.

In his address David Sole reviewed the programme of work under way in the Garden, including a number of projects in which the

Friends had taken a special interest - the redevelopment of the nursery, signage, bush walks and the tree framework study. He acknowledged the support received from the Friends and welcomed continuing open communication with us.

Jan Pennings gave a highly interesting talk, with matching photo presentation, on the bulb cultivation industry in the Netherlands - he runs one of the largest operations - and on the annual displays in the Keukenhof Garden, of which he is a board member. His evident expertise evoked a lively question period covering bulb growing practices in the two countries, running well past the intended closing time. It was clear that members present thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear this stimulating and informative speaker.

## Officers and committee members for 2009-2010

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting on 26 September 2009

Patron                      John Norwood

President                 Frank Wilson

Vice Presidents       Rosalind Iles  
                                 Phil Tomlinson

Hon. Secretary        Ted Woodfield

Hon. Treasurer        Elizabeth King

Committee              Brian Absolum  
                                 Angela Hill  
                                 Pip Murdoch  
                                 Richard Nanson  
                                 Florence de Ruiter  
                                 Kert Snater

Hon. Auditor            David Macdonald, FCA

### Profile of a Friend – Pip Murdoch



New committee member Pip Murdoch was shoulder-tapped by president Frank Wilson, or as she put it, “he twisted my arm.” Not literally, of course, but Frank, having known Pip for years, thought she would be a great asset to the Friends committee. For her part, Pip has known and enjoyed the Botanic Garden for decades and is pleased to have the chance to give something back to it.

Pip’s years of work as a registered nurse with a particular interest in the oncology area led to a job with the Cancer Society, counselling people with cancer and their partners, before she retired last year and, as you so often hear from retired folk, “became busier than ever,” including her new role on the Friends committee.

Married with three children and “1½ grandchildren”, Pip has lived in several houses in the Karori area and “always had a big garden”. Now she lives in a smaller Kelburn section with not much garden, but is fortuitously almost adjacent to the Botanic Garden. “I miss being able to pick flowers,” she says, but really appreciates having a garden “to look at” instead. In her previous big gardens she says she liked all plants, but some of the trees best, especially two cherry trees that fruited well, rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias.

In the Botanic Garden, “I love Horseshoe Bend”, she says, noting that it houses one of her all-time favourites, “*Michaelia*, that’s what I love – it’s evergreen, has perfect flowers and lovely perfume. What more could you need?” She looks after her granddaughter every Tuesday and has also become very, very familiar with the playground and the duck pond areas.

“What I particularly like about the Garden is the kaka – they are just stunning,” she enthuses. “I love that aspect – of the birds in the Garden and its surrounding areas.”

As for her plans as a committee member, she is interested in helping to plan future events, but is happy to see what comes up. “This is a time of your life that you volunteer for things and I think you’ve got to give back to the community,” she says.

## Profile of a Friend – Kert Snater

One of six children, Kert was born in Utrecht, Holland. After World War Two the family moved to the Hague then to the agricultural area of Groningen, where Kert completed his education and continued in academia, becoming a physical education teacher.

He carried out his compulsory army stint as a sports officer, spending eight months in France coordinating rest and recreation for troops, including organising sports tournaments.

The next two and a half years were spent at sea, as sports and recreation officer on a cruise ship. He went round the world four and a half times but must have wondered if he'd chosen wisely when his first cruise went through a horrific storm in the Bay of Biscay. One memorable stop was in Perth - his cruise ship was used as a hotel ship for the 1962 Empire Games.



*Kert with the Garden's rare and special Elingamita*

So how did he end up in New Zealand? As so often happens, a series of coincidences and seemingly unrelated events changed the course of Kert's life. While on board ship he got talking to someone from Wellington College. Meanwhile the cruise ship was in the process of being sold and Kert mentioned this to the Wellington College man, who then informed Kert that the college was in need of a phys-ed teacher.

The even more important event that changed Kert's life was meeting his wife Mary on board. She had been one of the passengers but he only got to know her in the final few hours he was on the ship.

And so, in 1963 he signed off the ship and onto New Zealand soil. Within five days of his arrival he was teaching!

Kert taught at Wellington College for seven years, followed by 20 at Scots College, eight and a half at Aotea College and a final pre-retirement short 'wind down' spell at Onslow College. The latter was an attempt to take on less responsibility, "at least that was the plan," says Kert. "But I can't say 'no'."

During his years at Scots' he designed a very successful outdoor education programme, from Standard 4 to Form 7, which is still being used today. The programme included elements of maths, science and cultural aspects and had a different focus for each form. "My aim was to get all seventh formers at Outward Bound," Kert says, "which we did achieve."

Retirement from teaching did not mean 'retirement', however. Kert, never one to lie about on a deck chair, then became the maintenance coordinator for the Capital Language Academy and Unicomm, and showed real talent as a handyman, "just basic number eight wire skills," he claims.

He retired proper around two years ago but is, of course, as busy as ever. An "active" grandparent to three, Kert is also a member of Rotary and deeply involved in Life Education (the "classroom on wheels" - and giraffe mascot Harold - that visits schools with a programme to improve lifestyle habits). "I like to be involved and I'm an outdoors man," says Kert, who manages to find time to enjoy music and ballroom dancing too.

Gardening is another of Kert's many interests, but, his own garden being a very small courtyard, he has really appreciated having the Garden "as my back garden" for the last 14 years. More to the point as far as the Friends are concerned, Kert is also Ted Woodfield's neighbour, so it was only a matter of time before he would be given the chance to "give something back," as he notes he was keen to do. Voted onto the Friends' committee last year, Kert's area of responsibility is practical projects, for instance building and maintaining the guides' shelter. He now has his sights set on the possibility of developing a small playground near Picnic café.

## Members Event Thursday 28 January 2010

Friends are invited to attend the unveiling, by the Mayor of Wellington, of the *Green Islands* sculpture in its new home on the slope between the Rose Garden and the Herb Garden.



The sculpture, by Wellington artist Regan Gentry, has been on temporary display outside Te Papa for the past two years. The transfer of the artwork to the Botanic Garden has been made possible by donors, including the Sir Walter and Lady Rana Norwood Charitable Trust.

The unveiling will take place on the site (weather permitting) at 5.15pm, and will be followed by refreshments and a guest speaker, hosted by the Friends and the Council, in the Begonia House.

All members and their friends and families are invited to attend.

**Time: 5-7pm**

**Place: Lady Norwood Rose Garden and the Begonia House.**

**If wishing to attend, RSVP by 22 January to [treehouse@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:treehouse@wcc.govt.nz) or by phone to 499 1400**

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### Man in the Trees - Redwoods at home

Recently during a visit to the United States, **Phil Tomlinson** had the opportunity to see the native habitats of two trees that are prominent in our Garden; the coast or California redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens* and the giant *Sequoia, Sequoiadendron giganteum*.

Only a short distance from San Francisco, over the Golden Gate Bridge, is Muir Woods, the only old-growth coastal redwood forest in the Bay Area and one of the last on the planet. It is estimated that nearly two million acres of forest just like Muir Woods once covered a narrow strip along the coasts of California and Oregon. Today, 97% of this has been impaired or altered and most coastal redwoods now grow on protected second and third growth forests or managed timber plantations. Thanks to William Kent's preservation efforts, Muir Woods was spared this fate and remains as a very accessible yet prime example of an old-growth forest.

The large trees in Muir Woods are coastal redwoods, the tallest of all living things, and some scattered Douglas firs that are also impressive. The Australian mountain ash, *Eucalyptus regnans*, native to south-eastern Australia, Tasmania and Victoria is often claimed to be taller, but this is not generally accepted. Whatever the truth, the redwoods are still most impressive. Further north, redwoods can reach heights up to 115.5 metres, taller than the Statue of Liberty,

although at Muir Woods they are smaller. The average age of the coastal redwoods at Muir Woods is between 600 to 800 years, with the oldest being at least 1200 years old. This is still young for redwoods as they can live up to 2200 years. Being long-lived and large in size, they play a significant role in carbon, nutrient and water cycling in the forest, helping to support an abundance of plant and animal life.

The botanical name for the redwood is *Sequoia sempervirens*. This name was given to the species by a German botanist to honour the half-caste Cherokee chief, Seqoyah. Chief Seqoyah developed an alphabet to enable his tribe's dialect to be written

The redwood grows in areas with a mild and humid climate. Summer moisture comes from fogs condensing on the leaves, which also reduces plant evaporation. With quite a dense canopy, there was not a lot of birdlife, and there was a considerable cover of ferns and similar plants. It is noticeable that here are many dead trees in the forest. They can fall and become part of the forest floor and aquatic community or

can remain standing, becoming what is known as a snag.



The trees that fall to the forest floor are important because they help keep the soil moist by soaking up rainwater as well as serving as a shelter for many of the insects, amphibians, and mammals in the forest. They continually replenish the soil by slowly releasing nutrients. One of the most important roles for these fallen trees is serving as a nursery for young seedlings. As the logs lie on the ground, leaves and cones accumulate on top, slowly decomposing, and turning into soil. Seeds fall into this fertile soil, growing into young seedlings. Other trees fall into the creek, creating the habitat diversity necessary for a healthy stream by forming falls and pools. The downed logs help to capture debris, lessen impact of floods, and release nutrients.

The dead trees that remain standing, “snags”, are home to many insects, birds and mammals. Insects feed on these trees, which in turn give the pileated woodpeckers plenty of food to prey on. There are several species of bats that roost under the loose bark and hollows of snags. Hawks, owls and eagles use snags as perching platforms. Even animals such as the bobcat find shelter in the larger cavities of a snag. Eventually, the tree will fall and assume a new role as a downed log. The importance of a tree does not diminish after it has stopped living. It is a common saying here at Muir Woods that only half the life a tree is spent standing, while the other half is spent on the ground.

The park is supported by an impressive infrastructure, to cope with the large number of visitors. The main paths can be crowded, but with sufficient time you can explore deeper into the park on smaller paths. The trees are impressive and some show interesting features. Redwoods naturally graft together where they touch, and there are several examples. One tree

also shows a large burl, a mass of dormant buds growing on the redwood’s trunk. In the event of a fire or flood a burl will vigorously sprout shoots each of which has the potential to become a mature tree.



While our coast redwoods are great examples in our Garden, to see them growing in their own home was a privilege.

The second area we visited was the Yosemite Valley, with its giant redwoods. The giant redwood comes from the moist mountain slopes at 1400-2400 m (4500-7500 feet) on the western side of the Sierra Nevada Range in central California, limited to some 75 scattered groves. It grows at a much higher altitude than the coast redwood. Old trees over 3000 years old have been identified, with the General Sherman tree estimated to be 3,800 years old.



Although it does not grow quite as tall as the Californian coast redwood the giant sequoia is far more heavily built and contains the greatest timber volume of any tree. It can grow to 84 m (275 feet) with a trunk up to 13m (40 feet) in diameter at the base.

The native peoples living within the range of this species were no doubt well aware of this gigantic tree, for at least three Native American names for the species are known. Its discovery by non-natives probably occurred in the 19th century and mention of the trees are found in the journals of several explorers and accounts of hunters, from 1833. However, little attention was given to these discoveries, in part because the accounts were not published until years later. The most effective discovery, or rediscovery, occurred in the spring of 1852 when a gold miner named Augustus T. Dowd was hunting a grizzly bear and came upon the huge trees of the Calaveras Grove. On his return to his mining camp he told others about the amazingly large trees. Later he returned to the grove to show the trees to a group of camp skeptics. The 50 acre grove of trees was found to contain specimens that were as much as 325 ft (99 m) high and 19 ft (6 m) in diameter.

Word of the Mammoth Trees, as they were called, quickly spread and by June of that year samples of branches and leaves were passed on to Dr. Albert Kellogg, a medical doctor and botanist in San Francisco and a founding member of the California Academy of Sciences. The initial plant samples lacked flowers and seed cones and Kellogg was waiting for the arrival of complete herbarium specimens before making a formal description of the species which he intended to name *Washingtonia gigantea*, in honor of George Washington. In the interim, he showed the tree specimens and provided information to William Lobb who had recently arrived from England on a plant collecting mission for the British nursery firm Veitch & Co. In contrast to Kellogg, who had never visited Calaveras Grove, Lobb quickly headed to the grove and had the good luck to find a recently fallen tree. He measured the tree ("about 300 feet in length, 29 feet 2 inches, at 5 feet above the ground..."), collected complete specimens and gathered two small living trees. He returned to San Francisco and, without saying a word to any American scientist, set off for England. Lobb arrived there on December 15, 1853 and soon gave the collected specimens to

published a formal botanical description of the tree in the Gardener's Chronicle of December 24. He named the species *Wellingtonia gigantea* as a memorial to Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, and who had died in September the previous year. The "giant amongst trees" was considered an appropriate memorial for such an important British historical figure.



American botanists were outraged that an English botanist who had never seen the world's largest tree named it for an English war hero. They published numerous alternate names for the species, including the one finally put forth by Dr. Kellogg in May, 1855, as *Taxodium giganteum*. Other names include *Washingtonia californica*, *Taxodium washingtonium*, *Sequoia wellingtonia*, and *Sequoia washingtoniana*. According to international taxonomic regulations a given name may only be used to identify a single genus and its earliest use has precedence. As luck would have it, Lindley's name of 1853 was invalid because *Wellingtonia* had already been used in 1840, in the formal description of an Asian broadleaf tree, *Wellingtonia arnottiana*. Joseph Decaisne, a Belgian botanist and director of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, published the species as *Sequoia gigantea* in 1854, an designation that ultimately won acceptance by

British botanists. Unfortunately, *S. gigantea* was also an invalid name, since *Sequoia* had been used in 1847 by Stephen L. Endlicher, an Austrian botanist, to designate the genus of the coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*. Later he added the Sierra redwood to the genus *Sequoia*, making its name *Sequoia gigantea*. But not all botanists agreed that it should be placed in the same genus as the coast redwood. In 1939 John T. Buchholz, a botanist at the University of Illinois, argued that, based on a number of differences, including seed cone development and chromosomal characteristics, the Sierra redwood did not belong in the same genus as the coast redwood and he named the separate Sierra redwood genus *Sequoiadendron* and the species type of the genus, the Sierra redwood, as *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. Apparently this designation was not a popular choice either, for it was widely criticized

by many senior California botanists, but his arguments and his designation (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) have subsequently won general acceptance. We currently suffer from many trees and plants having their names changed, and it is interesting that this is not a recent issue, but one that has been with us for years.

The Yosemite Valley is spectacular, and provides a grand backdrop for this magnificent tree. It grows in close association with *Pinus ponderosa* and the Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, both of which in their own way are equally impressive. Together these three trees in their surroundings make for one of the marvels of nature.

*Story Phil Tomlinson, photos Phil Tomlinson and Keith Robinson*



Spring Festival enjoyed mixed weather blessings, but it was perfect for Tulip Sunday.  
Photo/s Justine Hall, Wellington City Council.

## Why not us?

*Phil Tomlinson has been thinking about the research aspect of botanic gardens – then and now.*

Over recent years I have had the opportunity to visit a number of botanic gardens in Australia and in this country. The level of facilities and operations of the Australian gardens is impressive, and it set me thinking - why are they different? All of the main gardens in both countries were established as part of the colonial development of their respective areas, and all are around the same age – the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The main gardens in each state of Australia are well endowed with substantial buildings, glasshouses etc. With the developments, staffing and facilities it appears that they are funded to a higher level than any of their NZ counterparts.

Botanic gardens provide plant collections and recreational facilities to visitors. Most of the main overseas botanic gardens also provide extensive herbariums, especially related to local flora, and significant research facilities. The main Australian gardens have followed this tradition, but this development has not occurred in this country.

*The purpose of a Botanic Garden is to enhance people's awareness and appreciation of plants and their environment, provide appropriate recreational opportunities, and manage and protect our diverse cultural and natural heritage.* (from the 2002 Strategic Vision for the Botanic Gardens of Wellington as noted in the Forsyth & Blaschke *Ecological Assessment of the Wellington Botanic Garden Forest Remnants*). These objectives can only be fully met if you have good information and is facilitated when backed by sound research.

The Wellington Botanic Garden was established in 1868 with the following intended objectives:

**Government** - a trial ground examining the economic potential of both local and foreign plants, particularly forestry trees, but a wide range of crops were also trialled. Initially this was its dominant function for its early decades of the Garden's existence.

**Recreational - to provide areas for recreation and leisure.** This was not encouraged in the initial years, in fact the opposite could be claimed. It was not until towards the end of the century when the Wellington City Council assumed responsibility for the area that visitors were welcomed.

**Scientific** - a garden for the scientific study and collection of indigenous and exotic flora etc. The extent of wide scientific study appears to have been limited.

There appears to be few examples of pure scientific research undertaken in the Wellington Botanic Garden. G V Hudson, when still a teenager in the 1880's, studied the NZ glow worm (*Arachnocampa luminosa*). Early entomologists believed the NZ Glow worm was a relative of the European firefly. Interestingly, the European firefly is not a fly, but a beetle. The name game is further confused when it is appreciated the NZ glow worm is not a worm, - but a fly!! The true nature of these insects was first described by the young 18 year old English immigrant George Vernon Hudson, who was living in Karori Wellington, only a short distance from the Garden. On arrival in Wellington he commenced studying them, and in 1886 said they were the larva of a two winged fly, a 'fungus gnat'. He had studied them along the Garden's Puketea Stream since arriving to Wellington in 1883. In conjunction with Albert Norris they were able to unravel the life history over the next 10 years. Hudson spent in total some 60 years studying and writing about them and other insects in this country while working for the Post Office. His description and details of the insect were published in a number of scientific journals. The official naming and description came from insects he had collected in the Garden. Interestingly, his eventual extensive insect collection was donated to the Dominion Museum which eventually became Te Papa.

John Buchanan produced a study of the flora of the garden in 1875 while he worked there, but this was not published until 1988.

While the Garden is located close to Victoria University, few studies have been completed by students or staff at that university. The late W. J. Winstanley, from the Zoology Department, Victoria University, published in *Tuatara*: Volume 25, Issue 1, July 1981 an article on the giant dragonfly. H Cranshaw, a student at the University, in 1992 published *A study of the vegetation of the seven native bush remnants of the Wellington Botanic Garden*.

A number of studies have also been produced by the Wellington City Council staff. Barbara Metcalf and Chris Horne have completed a recent detailed study of the bush remnants, with Blaschke and Forsyth completing a more recent review of the bush ecology, both these last studies substantially funded by the Friends. These appear to be the extent of scientific studies within the garden.

The question must be asked – why are we different from the Australian examples, which have significant scientific operations directly integrated into the garden administration, meeting the full role of a ‘botanic garden’?

The answer here is probably historical. The Wellington City Council took control of the garden in 1891. They “willingly complied with public demands for a pleasure garden where science played no part”. At the time the Council took control, the country was suffering from an economic depression; as a result resources were in short supply with little cash available, and what was available was reserved for essential

development of the colony.

There is little doubt that if scientific research and a herbarium had been directly involved in the Garden, it would be significantly different from what it is today. It is interesting that James Hector, while scientific adviser to the Government from 18865, played a significant role in the early colonial scientific activity in many areas, but does not appear to have reserved for the Garden a role in this activity. One cannot roll the clock back, but with Victoria University on its doorstep and the need to understand a number of issues occurring in the Garden, perhaps it is time to try and attract more academic involvement.

There are many areas that could benefit from detailed study and the involvement of academics could add prestige. The Friends have some resources, and perhaps a scholarship to a student at Victoria could be of considerable benefit to all, provided the subject matter is relevant to the garden. For example, Cranshaw established a number of transects in the bush areas of the Garden while looking at the vegetation. It would be interesting if these could be revisited to see what changes have occurred. Our bush areas are under pressure, and to get information on the changes that have occurred would be valuable in furthering an understanding of the dynamics of the bush and its relationship with the exotic planting. There are, however, many areas which could benefit from detailed study. And this does not just apply here, but also to similar gardens in the main cities of this country.



Special Spring festival guests from the World of Wearable Art Florrie and Freddie were a big hit with young and old.

Photo: Leanne Killalea.

## Coming Events

**Sunday 17 January, 11am**

**Fragrance, Flavour and Physic**

A Herb Garden walk looking at the fragrant, medicinal, culinary and domestic uses of herbs. Meet at the rose garden fountain for this moderate, 60-minute walk. Cost: \$3

**Monday 25 January, 10.30am**

**Summer Colour**

For a splash of summer colour join this tour of the Begonia House, Lady Norwood Rose Garden, herbaceous borders and the Main Garden. Meet at the rose garden fountain for this easy 90-minute walk. Cost: \$3

**Thursday 28 January, 5-7pm**

**Friends event**

Grand launch of *Green Islands* sculpture, followed by refreshments and a guest speaker, in the Rose Garden and Begonia House (details page 7).

**Sunday 21 February, 11am**

**Insects, Birds and Plants**

Find out about insects and birds and their relationship to the Garden's plants. Meet at the Founders' entrance, Glenmore Street for this moderate 90-minute walk. Cost: \$3

**Monday 22 February, 10.30am**

**Figs, Grapes, Olives, Wine and Cedars**

Hear tales of the Phoenicians, ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, and their food, wine, timber, plants and legends. Meet at the duck pond for this moderate 90-minute walk. Cost: \$3

**Sunday 21 March, 11am**

**Ten Intriguing Trees**

Ten of the Botanic Garden's most interesting trees. Meet at the Cable Car entrance for this moderate 90-minute walk (with some uphill sections). Cost: \$3.

**Monday 29 March, 10.30am**

**A culinary odyssey**

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 can provide. In addition to timber, you can obtain delicacies such as chocolate, salads, sugar, chewing gum and many exotic drinks, and items such as ink, writing materials, food wrap and more. Meet at the Duck Pond for this moderate 1½ hour walk. Cost \$3.

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

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