

Newsletter

March 2010

Featuring: *Druid Hill gardeners*
Sculpture story
Kaka – a mixed blessing?



A kaka visiting the Botanic Garden.
Photo by William D Them



... and it's time to order bulbs.
We have another delicious selection for you to choose
from, so don't miss out!

President's Patch

We seem to be experiencing a relatively benign summer from the point of view of gardening and growing things. The downside is the ongoing effort to keep our gardens under control given the amount of rain and (sunshine). The Wellington Botanic Garden is not immune from these demands and I am sure members will wish to join me in congratulating the management and staff in maintaining the Garden in such a consistently excellent state of repair. For the many visitors to Wellington - foreign and New Zealand - the Botanic Garden is one of our prime attractions and an important part of the "face" of the Capital city. We have a treasure and it needs to be supported and nurtured: that is one of the roles of the Friends.

In relation to this theme, that is the ongoing requirement for upkeep and maintenance of the Botanic Garden, members may have noted the request for volunteers to help restore and maintain the perennial garden on the Druid Hill path (please refer to the separate article on this scheme). Because of financial constraints and the reduction in gardening staff, garden management had decided that this particular garden could no longer be kept going and had decided to replant it in shrubs. However, as a result of a suggestion put forward by our Vice President, Phil Tomlinson, your committee decided that it would be worthwhile seeing if, through our efforts and in cooperation with

Garden staff, the Friends could make a difference and ourselves help to renovate and then maintain this particular garden. Two Committee members, Ros Iles and Kert Snater, will lead and coordinate this effort and I hope members will rise to the challenge. I am aware that this is a new departure for the Friends but I am also aware that similar organisations, such as the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, regularly organise working bees and physically help in the maintenance of the garden they support. So this is an experiment the success of which will depend on the involvement of members. If you think you can help please contact Ros Iles!

On a more general theme, I should advise that your Committee has a number of projects planned for this year about which we are in discussion with Garden management. One of those, signage for the Bush Walk, a project in which we have been involved for a number of years, is projected to be finalised soon and members will shortly, I hope, be able to see the fruition of these efforts. I will keep members informed about other projects as they progress or near completion. And as always, your committee remains open to suggestions and ideas from members about ways you think the Friends can assist the development of Wellington's Botanic Garden.

Frank Wilson

Botanic Bulletin

We have been revelling in the late summer and enjoying the garden 'benefits' of the rather miserable January. The grass has stayed green, there has been a lot of growth right through the garden and the bedding displays are looking absolutely magnificent.

As the cruise ship season is draws to a close I must once again extend my thanks to the guides and hosts who manned the lookout giving

directions and fielding questions from visitors. I was hoping that the guiding concession would have come on-stream during January/February but it did not come to pass. I will continue working through this as it should be an important part of the services we offer our visitors.

The launch of *Green Islands* was a great success and made all the better by the Friends' event held at the same time. While the perception of the



value and quality of art remains in the eye of the beholder, I can say that I am thrilled with the acquisition and placement of this work for the garden. In my travels back and forth from the Rose Garden I often see visitors standing on the zigzag path admiring them. They certainly make a striking contribution to the garden and to the Sculpture Trail.

The Otari Landscape Development plan is now open for public consultation. Hard copies can be viewed at Otari, the Treehouse, libraries or online at the Council's website. The plan sets out an exciting 20 year vision for Otari and finally brings together the Otari projects which have evolved over the years into a single cohesive and interactive visitor experience. It is our expectation that visitors will leave Otari having had an enriching native plant experience whether they like it or not! Your feedback would be very welcome.

Work started on the Botanic Garden Nursery on 15 March. Much anticipated, we are very pleased to see this get underway. Curator Cindy Telford and Peter Tijssen did a great job in coordinating and conducting the transfer of the plants to temporary storage at Berhampore Nursery for the duration of the construction. Demolition will get underway fairly quickly. While the site is clear we will be taking the opportunity to remove a large pine from the junction of Mamaku Way and Quarry path, which has undergone serious decline in its crown over the last few years. Seed-bearing cones from the tree will be collected and stored.

In preparation for the move the larger plants of the cacti and succulent collection were planted out in the newly created area in the bowl opposite the existing collection. These plants form the structure for the succulent garden which will be part rock mulched and part grassed. A new path and steps pass down through the middle flanked by spectacular *Aloe bainesii* and link with an extension of the border into the top of the Kauri Rock garden. The rock work was funded by the George Denton Trust and many of the plants have

come to us over the years as donations. Needless to say, a number of the plants are hazardous to handle, with more than one staff member coming away well spiked!

A reminder that the Botanic Garden Library is available for the Friends, as well as staff, to peruse and use. This is a great resource that is underused. There has been a steady stream of additions to the library from new purchases and from donations of books. Included have been a few pre-WWII texts which offer an insight into gardening before the wide use of chemical methods of pest control... though not to say that there weren't a few unpleasant chemicals around even then! Also in the library are current journals and periodicals from the American Association of Botanic Gardens, the International Dendrology Society, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

Our congratulations to Peter Tijssen who celebrated 45 years service in January. This is a truly remarkable feat in this day and age when it is considered that the expected length of service for an employee is about two years! In other staff news Tim Harkness has moved from the Cable Car depot to take up the Curator - Shrubs position and Kathleen George returns to take up the position of Curator-Alpine and Theme in the main gardens. We are now recruiting for a gardener for the cable car to replace Tim. Also, it is good to see that Kirsten Lowe has been confirmed as gardener in the Rose Garden.

Thanks to the Friends who have taken over the maintenance of the Druid Hill perennials. This garden was scheduled for a change to flowering shrubs as we are becoming increasingly limited in how far we can stretch our resources. Getting started is proving daunting as the garden needs a major refurbishment. However, once the initial heavy work is completed I expect the maintenance to become much easier and much more rewarding.

Best wishes, David Sole

Druid Hill Friends Garden: Invitation to Volunteer

Friends are invited to help restore and maintain the delightful perennial garden on Druid Hill.



The Committee of the Friends of the Botanic Garden learned that Garden management had decided to remove the perennial garden at the top of the Camellia garden on Druid Hill (between the Listening Device and the Rudderstone) and replace it with shrubs. The reason is pressure on Botanic Garden resources (two gardening positions have been cut). This seemed to us a pity since it has been an attractive garden against the backdrop of the bush remnant and alongside the sculpture walk. We have discussed the situation with David Sole who would be very pleased if volunteers from the Friends would be prepared to take on the task of restoring this garden and helping maintain it. Your committee have agreed this would be worth a try. Two Committee members – Ros Iles and Kert Snater – have put themselves forward as coordinators of this project. They will need help from other Friends' members to carry out the work involved.

The project

At present this garden is overgrown because it has not been maintained in the recent past. The main issue is an infestation of convolvulus. We are advised by Garden staff that what is required to be done is to lift the existing

perennial plants, transfer those worth retaining to the nursery, and then dig/fork through the whole garden to remove the convolvulus.

Then the garden can be replanted. Some heavy work will be required in the initial stages but once replanted the garden should be relatively simple to maintain. Tools, new plants, technical advice, removal of debris and storage of removed plants, etc will be provided by Garden staff (Leanne Killalea and Dale Such will work with us on the project).

For OSH (and common sense) reasons, those working on this project will be required to have gardening gloves and, if digging, safety (capped) shoes or boots.



Pesky convolvulus running riot

Work began on Monday 8 March at 9am and will continue successive Mondays until the main restoration work is complete. Thereafter there will be a maintenance role for volunteers. Coordinators for this project are Ros Iles and Kert Snater and we are looking for volunteers to pitch in to help get this garden restored to its former glory.

We would welcome any member of the Friends (or non members also) to help with this project. You can come at any time and stay as long as you wish. It would be helpful if you could notify Ros (email iles@paradise.net.nz telephone 499 6560) if you intend to take part in this project. We hope you might also inform other potential volunteers.

Story Frank Wilson, photos Charmaine Scott

[Volunteers have had a couple of weeding sessions and already the garden is looking much, much tidier - Ed.]

BULBS 2010

*A reminder to get in quick to secure the best of these!
You should have an order form to hand but if you've lost it, ordering details follow.*

Tulips: 5 bulbs for \$5.00

Ile de France - strong clear red – mid season

Rococo – short (35cm) Parrot Tulip. Flower edges ruffled and crimped. Deep red blooms overlaid with purple flame (new).

Pretty Woman – vibrant red, lily flowered, elegant and dramatic. Tough and sturdy (new to the Botanic Garden).

Daydream – 1980 cultivar opens buttercup yellow and changes to warm orange. Large flowers that open widely in sun, a beautiful sight on Tulip Sunday last year together with **Strong Gold** – a recent cultivar, pure yellow and **White Dream** – ivory white flowers and yellow anthers that stands up well in the open garden.

New Design – palest yellow flower fading to light pink towards petal edges. Pink tone intensifies with age. White-edged green foliage. (new to Botanic Garden).

Angelique – double and bestseller for years, it is a medley of pinks that fade to paler tints towards the petal edges the effect is reminiscent of apple blossom. Plant these two together for an attractive combination.

Spring Green – creamy yellow with distinctive green stripe on outside of each petal.

Donna Bella – rich cream with carmine patch.
Leaves marked with purple or brown dots or stripes.
Short growth - ideal for pots.

Species Crocus: 10 bulbs for \$5.00

early flowering producing many flowers per bulb:

Cream Beauty – rich cream

Blue Pearl – soft pearly blue

Sunkist – golden yellow

Kapiti Coast Bulbs

Tulip Daydream



Ixia yellow, white and pink \$3 for 10 starry flowers on slender stems sunny position

Ipheon uniflorum starry upward facing blue flowers. Winter to spring. \$2 for 10

Freesia burtonii, \$2 for 10

Narcissus paperwhite, \$5 for 3.

Daffodils from Nelson – Lucky Dip and all yellow, 5 for \$6; 10 \$10-00; 15 \$14.25; 20 \$18-00.



Spring Green

**Please make cheques payable to
“Friends of Wellington Botanic
Garden”.**

**Send cheque and order to:
Angela Hill
25A Woodmancote Road
Wellington 6035.
Tel 04 479-5580**



The Sculpture Trail

The Botanic Garden and Wellington Sculpture Trust welcomed the Garden's new sculpture, Regan Gentry's Green Islands, with a function on 28 January.



Photo Neil Price, Wellington City Council

*After the re-unveiling, the Friends hosted guests in the Begonia House and **Neil Plimmer**, Chairman, Wellington Sculpture Trust, gave the following talk.*

The underlying theme - or perhaps the overarching one: it is odd that these two opposites mean the same thing - is around how art and nature interact. It is a subject that has been written about by philosophers, botanists, landscapers, artists and many others for as long as we've had written language. So I won't add much to the total of human knowledge in a fifteen minute talk. One weighty, recent contribution, called *Landscape and Memories*, is by Simon Schama, who is coming out here for the Festival.

We can cut the vast subject down to a more manageable size by focussing on nature as in a garden, not a wilderness. Art in untouched nature gives the most trouble, and who knows where it leads - the giant presidential faces on Mt Rushmore come to mind. A garden, on the other hand, is already a man-made construct. The plants are managed and there are the paths, seats, signs, retaining walls, even a Begonia House as here, and other interventions that interface with the plants.

So it has become a feature of civic and public gardens everywhere and for a long time that they should have art in them, since it makes an

aesthetic contribution to the enjoyment of the garden alongside the other more utilitarian structures.

It is possible to argue that historically public gardens have had classical and figurative type sculpture sitting easily in them, and that contemporary and contextual and sometimes abstract art is more problematic and challenging to a botanic garden. A short response is simply to say that we cannot keep installing imitation 18th and 19th century art in the 20th and 21st centuries and it is time to work with the best that the artists of these days can provide.



Photo Elizabeth King

However there is more going on than this. There is clearly a movement around the world to increase the quantity of art in public gardens. Gardens, like museums and art galleries and other public institutions, are under funding pressures, are seeking to improve their popular appeal and their revenues, and are seeing sculpture as a means of doing it. This is true even of public gardens that have a specific scientific, botanic focus, such as Kew Gardens in London- it has sculpture too and is increasing the opportunity for it.

The Auckland Botanic Gardens have become a leader in this in New Zealand. A recent installation of about 40 sculptures throughout those gardens attracted 160,000 visitors. In all cases the sculpture is of course, contemporary. The population of today is ready for more than pretty, and open to a few challenges in their art.

Let me consider the sculpture in the Wellington Botanic Garden here. I will limit my comments to the sculptures that the Sculpture Trust has had a hand in, and I realise that will omit some other worth-while pieces.

We started in 1991 with Peacemaker, one of a very few we have purchased already made. We were seeking to give the Garden a work to commemorate its 150th celebrations that year and this piece was available on sale in Rotorua and ideal for the purpose. A marvellous site was found for it to reflect the tranquility of its concept, and it is still there as a beautifully balanced structure with its water feature as well looking better than ever. The artist Chris Booth has gone on to win world-wide recognition, with major commissions in the UK, Europe, Canada and Australia.. Our work features in the books surveying his artistic development.

The success of this led the Trust and the Council to agree in 1992 on the Botanic Garden Sculpture Project to commission three pieces over three years, with a decision that the first should be on Druid's Hill. Andrew Drummond's Listening and Viewing Device was selected from 46 submissions and installed with some difficulty in 1994. It has a vague Druid look which I imagine enhanced its appeal for the site. It is certainly interactive in ways that would greatly strengthen its current appeal if these were more widely

known. A prominent Wellingtonian recounts he went there with teenage sons and had great fun throwing tennis balls over the top then looked up the pipe and watched the ball frantically bounce its way down the narrowing funnel.

In 1996 the next was installed, Mary Louise-Browne's gentle steps Body to Soul. They must be the Botanic Garden's own stairway to heaven. Her implementation of the concept, in a formalist way with granite and carefully crafted words, gives the work a deserving gravitas yet it remains attractive to visitors who can still often be seen walking up and down the steps discussing and photographing the texts.

That year something happened from out of left field so to speak - the Council decided that it wanted Henry Moore's Inner Form on Midland Park to be shifted to the Garden. The Trust agreed but was concerned about the site originally proposed which was somewhere near the Cable Car and the Carter Observatory. The Salamanca Slope was agreed as an alternative. The choice was surely influenced by the Henry Moore Foundation's sculpture park north of London, where the works are all widely spaced in green fields. As well as wonderful stories there is photographic evidence that the final site was decided upon after a group of Council and Garden staff and trustees experimented with an actual size cut-out of the work... however it happened, they got it right.

So that was four. The series was then promoted, along with the Albatross sculpture in Frank Kitts Park, as Wellington's Art and Nature sculptures - which fit with my opening comments.

The last in this burst of energy was Dennis O'Connor's Rudderstone, installed in 1997. It intriguingly captures the story of our migration from an old world of black granite and fossils to a new, Pacific world of blue and white vistas. It is an elegant and compelling work. A new sign makes it clearer to viewers that they are invited to complete the journey by stepping through the rudder to view the other side.



Regan Gentry and David Sole.

Which brings us to today, number six, a truly marvellous addition in the form of Regan Gentry's Green Islands. It is an interesting concept, bringing wire imitations of plants into an area of botany. It has been done before, and most successfully: there is a metal tree in Central Park, New York, not made of fencing wire of course. In one of New Zealand's most eminent sculpture parks, Connells Bay on Waiheke Island, a wire tree by Regan, a precursor of Green Islands, is embedded among real trees and is highly effective.

The Trust respectfully acknowledges the foresight of David Sole, the Manager of the Botanic Garden, in seeing the potential of acquiring this work and making the transfer from its downtown site possible.

I am sure its established popularity will be reflected in its developing draw-card appeal here.

I join earlier speakers in profoundly

thanking on behalf of us all the three donors who made the purchase possible.

And Regan, the creator, we fortunately have with us today. I join Kerry Prendergast the Mayor in saying again, it's fantastic. I thank the Botanic Garden and Council also for the new signage alongside all of the sculptures.

In total it is a magnificent collection, eclectic perhaps, but apart from Mr Moore's, New Zealand to the core, respected by the art world as being of the best quality. They will stand Wellington and the Botanic Garden in great stead for as far ahead as we can anticipate.

Since this talk the Auckland Botanic Gardens has reported that over 300,000 people visited its 2009-10 annual sculpture show, which lasted 14 weeks over the summer period, and that the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens have bought one of the artworks displayed for the Gardens' permanent collection.



Photos this page Neil Price, Wellington City Council

The Norwood family, Botanic Garden benefactors

The close relationship between the Norwood family and Wellington Botanic Garden began when Sir Charles Norwood was Mayor of Wellington (1925-1927). While Mayor he mooted the idea of a rose garden. His wife Rosina was very keen on horticulture and a friend of the first Botanic Garden Director J G McKenzie. In 1939 when McKenzie's application to Council for funds to refurbish the nursery glasshouses was turned down, Lady Rosina donated £200 toward the project. This was a large sum of money considering that at the time the average weekly wage was £3/10.

Sir Charles owned Dominion Motors and held the franchise for Morris cars. He did much for Wellington, including founding the Wellington Free Ambulance, now the only free metropolitan ambulance service in the country. The whole family involves itself in things the Norwoods support – the women of the family, including Sir Charles' daughter Eileen, daughter-in-law Lady Rana and her son John's wife Wendy, worked very hard in the Ladies' Auxiliary fundraising arm of the service.

The same applies to the Garden, as generations of Norwoods have been extraordinarily generous, funding various initiatives over the decades.

In 1950 Council named the 'new' rose garden after Lady Rosina Norwood. Six years later she donated an illuminated fountain for its centre and in 1960 Sir Charles bestowed £20,000 to build a begonia house and winter garden.

Their children Eileen, Edna and Sir Walter continued the family generosity to the Garden with the funding of the waterfall, pond, brick shelter and wall (now enclosing the Peace Garden) in 1971 and not long afterwards, replaced the fountain their mother had gifted.

Sir Walter and Lady Rana lived in Northland, overlooking the Garden. In 1981 they funded the extensions to the Begonia House, the lily house and the tea kiosk. Their ashes are buried under the lovely sculpture near the Lady Norwood Rose Garden. The sculpture, portraying the elegance of the couple, was commissioned by Council. "My parents got a lot of pleasure to see how many people have had pleasure themselves from the rose garden and begonia house," says their daughter Jenny Brown.



As the eldest son, John Norwood has spearheaded the family mission to help and, although now living in Taupo, retains much affection for the Garden and visits it whenever he is in Wellington.

The Norwood Trust has, over many years, helped fund many initiatives. Grants to the Friends have helped to finance the Guide shelter, the Joy Fountain, the Pinetum entrances and the ecological assessment of the bush remnants, to name but a few. The Norwood Trust also funded the signage in the Rose Garden (both the interpretative signs and the name plaques) and contributed to the Green Islands sculpture installation.

"All the family want to help where we can," John says. "I'm the Friends' Patron so I've got to do something. As long as there's a few cents in the coffer I'll continue to do it."

Acknowledgements:

John Norwood, Jenny Brown, Ted Woodfield, "The Botanic Garden Wellington. A New Zealand History 1840-1987" by Winsome Shepherd and Walter Cook, Millwood Press 1988.





Over the last year or two, the native kaka has been seen frequently in the Garden. In August 2002 the Karori Sanctuary introduced six birds, obtaining them from the Auckland and Hamilton Zoos. Since then numbers have significantly increased to over 100 birds by 2009. They can now be frequently seen and heard in areas around the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, including the Botanic Garden.

The kaka is a large parrot, closely related to the cheeky kea, the well known parrot of the Southern alpine skies. They are active during both day and night. They often congregate in early morning and late evening when their loud call is clearly heard, the Maori often referring to them as chattering and gossiping.

When the first settlers arrived in this country, they found kaka in abundance in the forests throughout the country. In Wellington the native population had disappeared by the start of the 20th Century. By the 1930s countrywide numbers had reduced significantly, to the degree that they are now only naturally found in a few areas on the mainland and a number of offshore islands, including Kapiti Island.

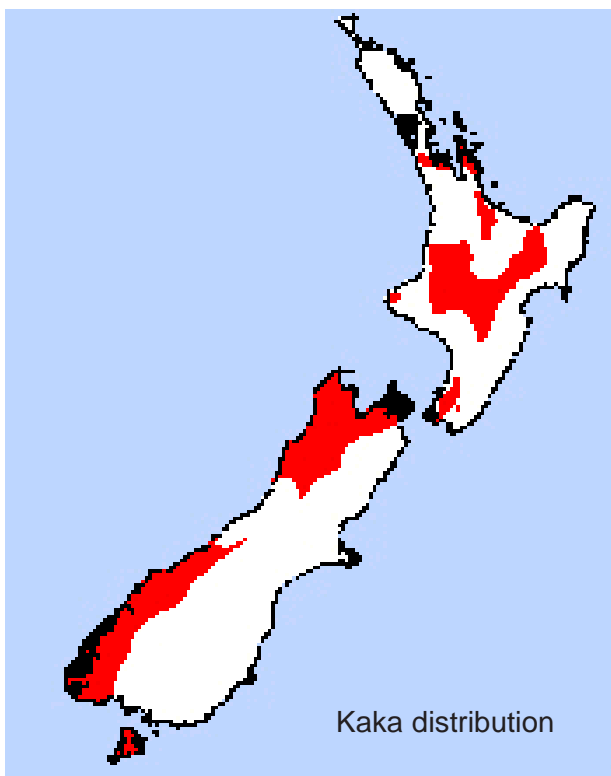
There are two subspecies, with the South Island birds more common than their North Island relatives. It is generally accepted that kaka require large tracts of forest to survive. In recent years there have been large areas of forest cleared, with agriculture and the timber industry having a significant negative effect on their habitat. This has been compounded by introduced pests such as possums, deer and pigs competing for the available food supply. Possums eat the same kind of food as do the kaka.

KAKA KAPERS

Phil Tomlinson has been investigating an avian revival.

Left – caught in the act, vandalising a Betula near the Cable Car. Photo by James Jones

Introduced wasps compete for honeydew on the bark of beech trees, excreted by scale insects. The sugary food of mistletoe and honeydew provide an important part of their diet.



The absence of mammalian predators allowed kaka to develop certain characteristics that can make them easy prey. Predators such as stoats, rats and possums can corner the birds where they nest in hollow trees, areas where opportunities to escape attackers are often impossible.

Kaka is classified as Endangered because it has a small population estimated at fewer than 10,000 birds and numbers are considered to be declining rapidly.

They are fast fliers, and have a powerful beak. They eat a varied diet, mainly insects and their larvae as well as many kinds of nectar, seeds and succulent forest fruit. Like tui, they have a special brush tongue enabling them to easily

extract nectar from flowers. Feeding in noisy flocks, particularly early in the morning and late in the evening, they hold fruit or flowers up to their bill with a foot and use their beaks to steady themselves as they peer and stretch under and over vegetation. Their song varies from a harsh grating cry to a remarkable variety of soft, melodious notes, heard most often during nesting. Kaka play an important role in the forest by pollinating flowers. Eggs take three weeks to incubate and the young remain in the nest for two months. Young birds leave the nest before they can fly, making them especially vulnerable to predators such as stoats and feral cats.

In the Karori Sanctuary, during spring 2008, kaka were observed vandalising nest boxes. Initially destroying breeding boxes of smaller birds, they then started destroying their own boxes. Their close cousins, the alpine kea, are well known for this type of behaviour. This was a foretaste of the future.

Significant damage has been done to many trees throughout the Wellington Botanic Garden and can also be identified in surrounding areas. Bark has been stripped from branches and trunks of a range of different trees, with noticeable piles of shredded bark lying around affected trees. While some damage will relate to feeding – searching for bugs, etc., the extent of damage suggests more wanton behaviour.



With the local population increasing quickly, it is apparent that they are doing what they do best, assisted by the protected environment in the Sanctuary. It is also apparent that they are now also actively doing what they do second best, vandalising the environment.

Recently the Wellington City Council noted that possum numbers in the inner city had been decreased by some 83% from their peak, as the result of an active control programme. Much of the resurgence in native and bird numbers has been claimed to be a result of this control programme. It does, however, appear that one pest may be replaced potentially by another, and this

problem is likely to only get worse if their proven ability to breed is allowed to continue unabated. Between 2002 and 2009 reported numbers increased from six to some 140 birds. If, over a similar period, they continue increasing at the same rate as they have, numbers could potentially climb to over 1,500 birds in another seven years!

The extent of tree damage in the Garden is already serious. In the Pinetum, for example, staff have struggled to establish new plantings in an area that is at best a real gardener's challenge. Some of those trees are now only just starting to really establish themselves, but have had leaders and main branches stripped bare of bark, and some loss of trees is anticipated. It is likely that this damage will increase. Interestingly, it appears that most of the damage is confined to the exotic trees, with few natives affected.

Destruction of birds is not an appealing proposition, even if it was practicable in an urban environment. Perhaps in the Sanctuary feeding program, some special contraceptive supplement may be appropriate, to try and control numbers before they get out of hand.

With everything we do, there are benefits and losses. There is the making of a serious problem here, and taking active measures now could avoid major problems later. Control numbers so these appealing birds can be enjoyed, but ensure their antics do not result in significant loss of trees, and cost in terms of time and expenditure. This is not just a Garden problem, the damage can already be seen in surrounding areas.

Coming Events

Glow in the dark Glow-worm tours

Fridays 16 April, 14 May, 11 June, 9 July, 13 August at 7.30pm

Meet at the main gates (Founders' entrance) on Glenmore Street for a one-hour journey into the world of this fascinating creature. Bring a torch.

Adults \$5, children under 12 free.

Sunday March 21, 11am

Ten intriguing trees

Check out 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 March 29, 10.30am

A Culinary Odyssey

A walk with a difference! Enjoy a virtual meal in the Main Garden. You may be surprised to discover the many products that plants provide – delicacies such as chocolate, salads, sugar, chewing gum, many exotic drinks and items such as ink, writing materials and food wrap. Meet at the duck pond for this moderate 75-minute walk. Cost: \$3

Wednesday 7 April, 5.30pm

Begonia House

Special event – book launch *A History of Gardening in New Zealand* by Bee Dawson.

Friends are invited to attend but places are very limited. Call the Treehouse 499 1400 ASAP to book!

Sunday April 18, 11am

Solander's World and Plant Names

Carl Linnaeus, Daniel Solander, Sydney Parkinson, feature in a story focused on Captain Cook's first voyage and early New

Zealand flora – including why plants are named the way they are. Meet on the Treehouse verandah for this easy 75-minute walk. Cost: \$3

Monday April 26, 10.30am

West Way Wonders

A 'way-out-west' tour of the Botanic Garden to a to check out some unusual trees.

Meet at the Duck Pond for this moderate 90-minute walk with an uphill section. Cost: \$3

Sunday May 16, 11am

Papyrus, Parchment and Paper

Fascinating facts about the evolution of paper are revealed during this easy walk one-hour walk. Hear about the emperor's toilet paper, the origin of money and more.

Meet at the Duck Pond. Cost: \$3.

Monday May 24, 10.30am

Pythons, Puff Adders and Pumas

Plants that strangle, poison and pounce. Meet at the Cable Car entrance for this energetic 90-minute walk. Cost: \$3.

Sunday June 20, 11am

History of the Main Garden

An easy 90-minute historical walk with interesting stories from the early days of Wellington and the Botanic Garden. Meet at the Founders' Entrance, Glenmore Street. Cost: \$3

Monday June 28, 10.30am

Sundials, Sculptures and Solstice

View the Botanic Garden's new - and old - sculptures and its sundials on this moderate 90-minute winter solstice walk. Meet in the Begonia House foyer. Cost: \$3.

Next newsletter edition: Nursery makeover special

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

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

Secretary: Ted Woodfield, phone 499 6005, email: tedwoodfield@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.friendswbg.org.nz

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

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

