

March 2024

Garden News

with the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā

Artist in Residence

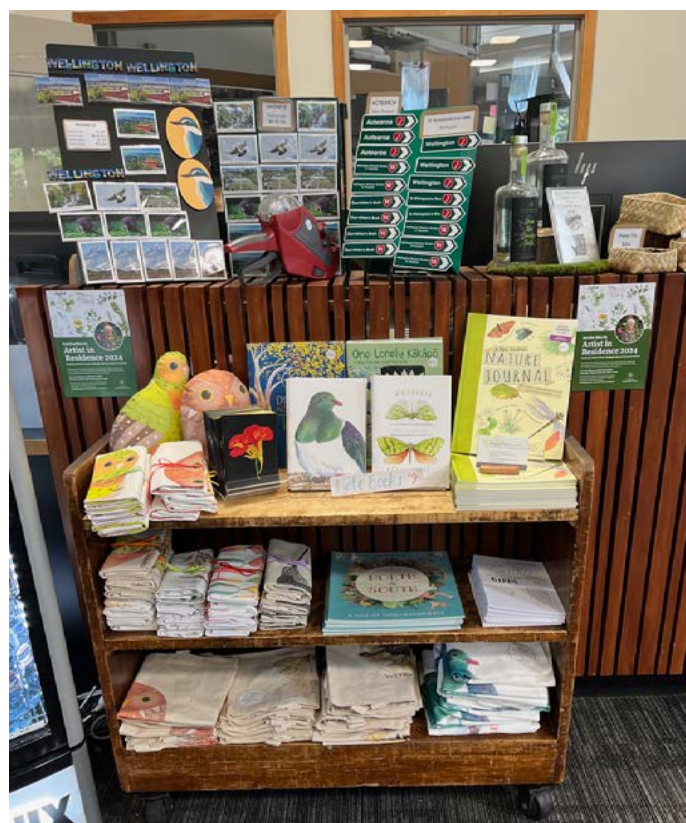
Sandra Morris has been busy the past couple of weeks, settling into her new home in the Treehouse.

She is now happily sketching the local flora surrounded by all her wonderful merchandise including kids' books, tea towels, note pads and, of course, original artwork.

Feel free to pop in and see her on **Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays**. Sandra's merchandise is for sale even on days she is not in residence.

Sandra's Botanical **Watercolours class** is now **SOLD OUT**. There are still a few places in her **Nature Journaling class** on Sunday 10th March

See Page 6 for more information.



THE TREEHOUSE VISITOR CENTRE AND SHOP

You can either take the elevator or walk up the hill for another pretty view of the garden and the Soundshell. The shop has a range of New Zealand souvenirs and locally made gifts.



Friends of the
Wellington Botanic Garden

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President's Patch

A new year usually begs for a resolution and gardeners have many. Including; 'have to move, looks sad, must buy another one' type of plant resolutions.

Artist in Residence

Our current artist in residence Sandra Morris is offering a different take on a gardener's resolution – capture what you have in a garden journal. A better way to celebrate what's beautiful rather than an overwhelming list of must-dos. Journals are for sale from the Treehouse. If you want to know more, Sandra is 'in residence' Thursday to Saturday 10-3.00pm till the end of March.

Chocolate fundraiser

While you are visiting the Treehouse make sure you catch the Friends chocolate display. Together with La Petite Chocolatier we have developed a select range of handcrafted small batch chocolate bars. Rosemary and Sea Salt, Thyme and Lemon and, Chamomile and Orange plus the traditional favourites dark and milk chocolate. A portion of each sale is donated to the Friends so we can continue our support of the Garden. These stylish and very yummy bars are available from The Treehouse and La Petite, Tinakori Road.

Garden Tours

Other events on the radar this year are two curated garden tours. For our Friends and their friends we have put together two stunning tours for the 2024 spring season. Visit Taranaki during festival week and enjoy a number of breath-taking gardens and local art galleries. However, if you are interested in travelling further afield, Toowoomba is calling. Hosted by well-known and respected garden guru Ross McKinnon. He has developed a garden tour that showcases the best gardens, historic places and even a winery or two during this ten day tour. Both trips are organised by our Friends travel agent Claudia Moir. Call her on 021431589 to discuss further.

New Children's Play area and WIFI Seat

Closer to home, don't forget to have a walk around the new children's play area – opened in early March. Make sure you stop and admire the sleek design of the Friends solar seat. It is a modern example of a multi-functional piece of furniture. Not only is the stylish seat a good place to rest and warm your nether regions, it is connected via Bluetooth to the Council free WIFI



La Petite Chocolatier and Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden Chocolate fundraiser. Available in the Treehouse, and at La Petite on Tinakori Road.

network. It's a great place to observe the playground while you wirelessly charge your phone.

Finally don't forget to enjoy an evening walk through the Garden before winter creeps in without us noticing. The rose garden is punching well above its weight in this hot weather and there are a number of interesting and unusual flowers in the Begonia House including the Bat plant. Interesting on so many levels.



Bat plant in the Begonia House. Photo Mazz

Happy gardening on behalf of the Friends

Mazz Scannell

President of the Friends of the Botanic Garden

"Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint and the soil and sky as canvas."

-Elizabeth Murray

Botanic Garden ki Paekākā Manager's report

As I write, the much wanted rain is tapering off proving only to be a surface wetting..... and the wind has been howling around the Treehouse. A far cry from the tranquil holiday shores of Hahei!

Tree removals

By the time this is published we will sadly have removed two giant redwoods *Sequoiadendron giganteum* from adjacent to the Treehouse and nursery. These trees have been in gradual decline, principally from kākā damage, for some years but this year had all but died. In a well choreographed work sequence Treescape used a helicopter to remove the pre-rigged sections as they were cut piece by piece and relocated and processed on Magpie Lawn. It is disappointing to see these trees being removed as they were still only comparative seedlings when you consider the potential life of the trees could be measured in hundreds or even thousands of years. Separately from this work a number of Norfolk pines have also been or are about to be removed from similar reasons.

Children's Playground



A real highlight has been the reopening of the Children's playground. At a delightful blessing attended by Clifton Terrace School, Kelburn Preschool and Nursery staff and contractors the playground was reopened along with the vast consumption of ice blocks and biscuits. The children had a great time and it was good to see the way the playground was being used actively by them and passively by the adults. Along with the evolving nature play area I think we have ended up with a play space that's well ahead of what I had anticipated. The following Sunday's activities were popular especially in conjunction with the opening of the Franks Kitt's Park Play area. The opening of both coincided with Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki - Childrens Day on 3 March.

Planting

The Plant Collections Team is well into planning for the seasonal bedding changeover in April. This year we are moving incrementally away from large swathes of bedding to more semi-permanent displays with pockets of bedding and/or bulbs as appropriate for the season to carry over the much loved floral displays. Although over the 3-5 planting cycles of the garden the costs will be marginally less it will result in more sustainable use of the soils, reductions in losses of plants from *Phytophthora*, improved insect habitat and a more efficient use of staff time. Along with this is the

opportunity to use and celebrate a different range of plants including threatened species, and to better tell the stories about the plants.

Artist in Residence

A big thank you to the Friends for this year's Artist in Residence Sandra Morris. There has been keen interest in Sandra's work and her prints and printed merchandise sold well. Her first workshop was fully subscribed. This has been a great initiative by the Friends which is popular with visitors and staff alike.

Begonia House

Work continues in the background on trying to land on a final proposal for the Begonia House. The currently allocated funding appears to be holding but for the project to be taken through to completion substantially more funding is needed at a time when Council is challenged by its forward Capital Works programme. With around 240,000 visits to the Rose Garden Café and Begonia House each year and around 1.2m visits to the Garden each year it remains one of the prime visitor destinations for the City and needs the investment commensurate with that.

Staff

Team Manager Plant Collections Clare Shearman has been successful in winning a prestigious Fellowship at Longwood Gardens in the United States. Clare is one of six successful applicants and the only one from outside the US. Clare met up with programme manager Sharon Thompsonowak who was visiting Wellington. Sharon greatly enjoyed visiting the Botanic Garden and was in awe of what is achieved with the number of staff we have! Clare heads away at the end of May for a year so we will be recruiting a temporary Team Manager to cover the role while she is away.

In changes to our staff, team leader Heritage Gardens (Rose Garden, Bolton Street Cemetery and Truby King Park) has left us to begin a university degree and is being replaced by Kai Yuan who joins us from the Parks Sport and Recreation Horticulture team. Intern Alex Goodman has returned to the US after 3 months with us as part of his photography course. Alex has built up an amazing library of images of all four gardens which will be a great resource for us in the years to come. Also returning to the US is Emily Reinhart who completed a short internship with us. Emily, as part of her studies, undertook background research and draft writing of interpretation that will sit alongside the changes to the floral display gardens.

Light Cycles Exhibition

Lookout for the upcoming Light Cycles Exhibition at the Botanic Garden as part of the Aotearoa NZ Festival of the Arts. This is an adaptation of exhibitions held in Adelaide and Japan. Each evening it will start from the area around the former Metservice building and follow Remembrance Ridge and Serpentine Way down to the Dell with multiple light and sound installations. Those of you who attended Power Plant some years ago will remember what a fantastic event it was and a very different way to experience the garden.

David Sole – On behalf of the Wellington Gardens Team Page 3

Upcoming Events

‘Landscape Artist of the year’ COMPETITION

Saturday 20 April 2024, 10.30am-2pm

Entry is FREE - Prizes for winners

Meet at Begonia House at 10.30am for registration. No pre-booking required.

Four categories: 3-10 years, 11-16 years, Adult and Professional

Keep an eye on the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden facebook page and website for more information to come.



Two 2024 Garden Tours for Friends

These Garden Tours are exciting new offerings for Friends. Book early so you don't miss out! By travelling with us you are supporting the Friends as a small portion of every sale is donated to help support the Wellington Botanic Garden.



**TOOWOOMBA
CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS
TOUR
16 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2024**



Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers 16-25 September 2024

The Australian tour is hosted by the Botanical World Discoveries Team. Your guide will be Ross McKinnon who is a well-respected plantsman and former curator of the Brisbane Botanic Garden. Price is \$6,995

per person twin share. Could we have expressions of interest please as soon as possible for the tour to the wonderful Carnival of Flowers in Toowoomba (Southern Queensland)? See attached poster of this famous Carnival.

Interested in more information?

Email wbgfriends@gmail.com for specific info about the Taranaki Festival, you can email Claudia Moir at NZ Travel Brokers and she will assist you claudia.moir@nztravelbrokers.co.nz



**TARANAKI
GARDEN FESTIVAL
31 OCT - 3 NOV 2024**



Taranaki Garden Festival 31 October-3 November 2024

Fly in and out of New Plymouth. Price is \$2,240 per person twin share for a tailored trip exclusively for FOWBG. It is hosted by Leisure Time Travel, a well-known travel company, and they will show you the best of Taranaki. Enjoy three

days of gardens, fun and curated events with your own knowledgeable tour guide.

Book now to secure a place on these curated tours.

Upcoming Events



TALKS

'Insights' Brown Bag Series (February to May 2024)

Reg Harris will present the last two Thursday lunch seminars as part of the Insights series in the Treehouse 12.15-1.15pm in March & May. All welcome. Feel free to bring along your own 'brown bag' lunch to have during the talks.

Thursday 28 March Shooting Mechanisms in Plants and Fungi

When plant seeds or fungi spores are released from their parent reproductive organs it's often difficult for us to see or understand their respective mechanisms of action. Reg's Talk, drawing on detailed research and associated illustration, will look at the fine details of seed and spore release.

Thursday 16 May Parasitism and Allelopathy

This talk is about plants being horrible to plants! A brief look at the semi-parasitic New Zealand mistletoes and fully parasitic wood rose and dodder will set the scene. Allelopathy is the chemical inhibition of one plant species by another species.

FOWBG Guided Walks

Sunday 17 March, 11.00am Contrasts

This 75-minute easy walk with the Friends of the Garden will take us from open skies to deep crown cover, from simple plant associations to complex ones, and from modern flora to the ancient.

Meet at the Founders' Entrance, Glenmore Street.
\$5 cash for non-Friends

Friends Calendar 2024

March 3 – Music at the Begonia – Laura Cheetham

March 3 – Artist in Residence (AiR) workshop – Beginners watercolours

March 10 – AiR workshop – Nature journaling

March 14 – Committee meeting

March 21 – Student walks VUW

March 22 – Student walks VUW

March 28 – Insights Reg Harris Shooting mechanisms in plants and fungi 12.15-1.15pm

April 7 – Music at the Begonia – Capital Harmony

April 20 – Artists in the Garden Event

May 2 – Committee meeting

May 5 – Music at the Begonia

May 16 – Insights – Reg Harris Parasitism and Allelopathy, 12.15-1.15pm

June 2 – Music at the Begonia

June 20 – Committee meeting

July 7 – Music at the Begonia

August 8 – Committee meeting

August 4 – Music at the Begonia -

September 1 – Music at the Begonia – Laura Cheetham

September 14 – AGM

September 16 – 25 Toowooba Garden Tour

Oct 6 – Music at the Begonia

October 24 – Committee meeting

October 31 to 3 Nov – Taranaki Garden tour

Dec 5 – Committee meeting/Guides and Friends Christmas drinks 4-6pm

Music at the Begonia – Faultline Chorus

Committee meetings – every 6 weeks

Music in the Begonia – first Sunday of the month

Brown bag lunches – intermittent throughout the year

Please refer to the Friends facebook page and website for any changes and additional events.

In and around the Garden

Artist in Residence 2024 - Sandra Morris



Sandra Morris in the Begonia House. Photo: Liz Lander

Workshops in March

Two illustrative workshops below. Book through Eventfinda.

Beginners Watercolour - SOLD OUT

10.15am, Sunday March 3

Nature Journalling

10.15am, Sunday March 10

A FEW PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

Learn Sandra's process for creating beautiful journal pages. You will learn the art of careful observation, different journaling techniques and the use of creative hand lettering.



In and around the Garden

Double the fun: The 3rd March saw the opening of the revamped playground at Frank Kitts Park and the play area at the Botanic Garden ki Paekākā.

It was a day of play in the city. A chance to try out the new play spaces and take part in a range of fun Childrens' Day activities on the waterfront, and in the new playspace at Botanic Garden ki Paekākā.

The Parks were open to the public from midday on the 1st March.



Your photos



Talented young musicians including Adriana Calabrese (on right) performing at Gardens Magic concert at the Sound Shell.

Photo: Jeff Mein Smith



Friends new Solar powered seat.

If you would like to share your photos with the Friends and visitors to the Garden please email mmainwaring@xtra.co.nz

Fundraising Projects supporting the Garden

Thank you to everyone supporting the Garden, through Gin, Olive Oil, Plants, Chocolate purchases or other projects. These all help to fund projects in your Garden.

Coming soon.....



Friends Down the Garden Path Virgin Olive Oil

Can be purchased at the Wellington Botanic Garden Treehouse.



Friends Down the Garden Path GIN

Now available at:

- Barrel 2 Bottle – Waikanae
- Bottle O – Featherston
- Blackbull – Porirua
- Blackbull – Petone
- Bottle O – Stokes Valley
- Carterton Bottle Store
- Discount Liquor Centre – Te Aro
- Super Liquor Kapiti/Karori/ The Cellar Room – Karori
- Liquor Centre – Hataitai
- Martinborough Wine Merchants
- Regional Wines
- The Bottle-O – Paraparaumu Beach

And the Bond Store <https://thebondstore.co.nz/>



Friends Chocolate

Can be purchased from The Treehouse and La Petite Chocolatier on Tinakori Road.

Flavours:

- Milk Chocolate
- Chamomile and Orange
- Lemon and Thyme
- Rosemary & Sea Salt
- Dark Chocolate

Volunteering opportunities

Wellington Botanic Garden VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you enjoy engaging with people and celebrating the Wellington Botanic Garden?

We would welcome interest from anyone who feels they might be able to assist our Guides in these walks.....or possibly to become a Guide in their own right.

Fully guided walks led by Friends of The Wellington Botanic Garden volunteers are offered on a regular basis through most of the year to pre-booked groups and individuals.

If involvement as a Guide Assistant or Guide interests you, please contact Jenny Hickman:

04 383 6561
jhickman@xtra.co.nz



Join us

Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden

We need your help

If you would like to help the Friends with projects, become a Garden Guide or Ambassador please email: wbgfriends@gmail.com



Photo: Susan Shipley

Newsletter content

What would you like to see in your newsletter?

All contributions to the newsletter are welcomed and thank you to all past and present contributors – your help to make it special for others to enjoy. .

Material for the **June 2024** Newsletter issue should be submitted by **Wednesday 22nd May** to the Editor at: mmainwaring@xtra.co.nz

Contact details

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For more information:

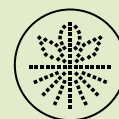
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Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden



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