



## NZ Garden Trust Newsletter December 2016

December has come in a blur, so much happening and for those of us in the northern South Island and lower North Island not helped by the earth deciding to rearrange itself once again! We do live in an extraordinarily active earthquake zone, the entire Pacific Rim seems to be having 1000 year earthquakes every few weeks! The amazing thing is that plants seem to love the movement, and the growth this year in this garden is huge, helped of course by more rain than we have had for the last 2 summers!

On the Trust front, we do want you all to know that at last we seem to be making more progress with actual garden visitors, and I am including this brief from Linda Larson who visited here recently. Linda calls herself the travelling gardener, and has visited many gardens around the world, I had asked her a number of questions around how helpful the NZGT was to her in her planning of gardens to visit, which she answers here and I think is self-explanatory.

*"First, we did use the NZGT site for a great deal of our itinerary planning. We also used the lonely planet guidebook, google maps (we zoom in on the area and look for gardens) and the site [gardenvisit.com](http://gardenvisit.com) out of England.*

*Then we printed out the trust list (picked up a printed copy when we first saw one here) and we used the print copy to keep track. I then used the NZGT site every evening on my laptop to double*

*check information in more detail. I would go from the NZGT site to the garden's website for more info. It was enormously helpful to have the links for email and website within that document.*

*Because I'm using an international phone plan I didn't use the NZGT site on my mobile device often because of the data charges, but it does seem to work well.*

*Re: the grading for the gardens, we did use that as a guide, looking mainly for the 4, 5, & 6 rankings for our tour. We have been to 28 of the gardens so far, (we have two more weeks in country) and only two have seemed not quite up to the ranking they were given. All the rest seemed spot on.*

*We did visit all the public botanic gardens we could find on our route, some are, of course, also NZGT listed. We did a week in Taranaki for the Powerco festival and visited 32 gardens there, some of which were also NZGT.*

*My thoughts re: what could be done better?*

*We have booked all our accommodations thru Airbnb. We specifically chose those properties that had gardens of their own. Many had quite lovely private gardens. We have stayed in 20 different properties to date. I would say 15 of those gardeners didn't know about the NZGT!!! I know two of the gardeners have since travelled to gardens I told them about, that they lived very near to and hadn't visited. But isn't that often*

*the case? So perhaps more local promotion would be in order?*

*The other improvement would be signage, even if there aren't directional signs as many people use the gps apps to map the way but a better garden name sign instead of just a two number designation somewhere on a mailbox tilted downward. ;-)* For some of the larger gardens a bit of directional signage, or map is always very much appreciated. Talking with the gardeners is so nice, hearing their stories, the successes are evident, their failures endearing.

*As to the NZ gardens being superb!!! Yes I believe they are excellent, fabulous, lovely, diverse, loved by their gardeners and ever so wonderful to visit. Ironically one of the reasons is while we were wandering about we had the place to ourselves. No big tour groups, no masses of folks taking selfies and blocking the path. Selfish I know but the joy of leisurely exploring, hearing the birds, is just not possible in famous English gardens.*

*So, I think I've answered all your questions. I don't believe we will ever have a more wonderful garden visit trip than these weeks in NZ because of the things I mentioned. I've written about several of the gardens on my website. I have more to stories to come. We are just finishing up in Napier, and have a few more days north before we end up in Auckland, and hope to see Ayrliès and several others in that area.*

*All the best in your work with the NZGT. It is a very good thing."*

*Linda Larson*

[www.travelinggardener.com/](http://www.travelinggardener.com/)

### ***There are tips for you all amongst these comments!***

The Trustees will be working on what is applicable to us, but you all could help with finding other gardens in your area to join the NZGT. The Trustees will not know them all and this is something every one of us can contribute to. The more gardens we have on board the more help we will receive from NZ Tourism!

## **Facebook and Instagram**

**A reminder Jill Simpson would love more photos from you all**

**Email to [fishermansbay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fishermansbay@xtra.co.nz)**

**NZGT Survey forms** We hope you are all asking your visitors to fill these in. They were sent to you all in an email from Irene Collins on Oct 4. I have had a number printed and people are very happy to fill them in.

## **Proposed formation of NZ historic Garden Society /Branch of Australian Garden Society and historic Camellias in NZ**

Gary Phillips would be interested in hearing from anyone with knowledge of or owning old historic gardens, or other known sites in New Zealand with some of the old camellias. There is much research going on into petal blight, and discoveries of new camellias in China that flower in the summer, which will interest us all.

There is a proposed conference to be held at the Waikato University in 2017. If you have knowledge of these gardens or are interested in attending this conference please contact Gary direct. Ph (06) 3686717 or 210 Bruce Rd., Levin 5510



**Robyn Kilty's courtyard with white wisteria!**

NOTES FOR THE NZGT DECEMBER 2016  
NEWSLETTER

MARK YOUR DIARIES NOW!!



DON'T MISS THE 2017 ANNUAL NZ GARDENS TRUST CONFERENCE "GROWING MOMENTUM" 6th – 9<sup>th</sup> April.

The Conference returns to Auckland after 10 years and an exciting programme awaits you. Final details will be sent to you in the New Year but for now.....

The Spencer on Byron Hotel has been booked for registration, accommodation and the Saturday evening delegate dinner.

Delegates have been offered an accommodation discount – here are the details.... Book now to avoid disappointment as rooms are subject to availability. You must quote NZGARDTRUST when making your booking. The phone number is 09 91661111 or email [reservations@spencerbyron.co.nz](mailto:reservations@spencerbyron.co.nz)

The price of a double room is \$205.00 plus gst and includes complimentary breakfast for 1 person.

Pack your tennis racquets and bathers.....Takapuna beach is a 3 min walk away and the Hotel has a pool, tennis court and gymnasium.

Alternative accommodation providers are 5 – 6 min walk away from the Hotel...their details:

Emerald Inn. Phone 09 4883500

Anzac Court Motel. Phone 09 4894315

Parklane Motor Inn. Phone 09 4861069

How lucky can you get.....on THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> we will be picnicking at Alan Gibbs Sculpture Park, his 400ha private property on the Kaipara Harbour.

This is world class and so PLEEEASE don't miss this opportunity of joining us to view this unique property. The park is home to a series of site specific art works commissioned from some of the world's most significant artists. It is home to a collection of permanent outdoor sculptures on a scale rarely seen. Go on line and check for yourselves...[www.gibbsfarm.org.nz](http://www.gibbsfarm.org.nz)

We will be visiting other Trust gardens in the area.

On FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> we start the day with a visit to Peter and Jocelyn Coyles garden "Totara Waters Subtropical Garden" and then visit the Coatesville area gardens. Our picnic lunch that day will be enjoyed at "Mincher".

On SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> we visit "Government House", "Highwic", "Auckland Domain Wintergardens" and base ourselves at "Eden Garden" for refreshments and lectures. We close the day at "Ayrilies" before returning to the Hotel for dinner.

On SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> .....our open forum and presentations will be followed by a visit to "Cornwall Park" with the conference closing at the "Auckland Botanic Gardens". There will be transport provided from there to take delegates to the airport.

That's a snapshot of what is planned for "GROWING MOMENTUM".

We have a wonderful line up of speakers and details of who, their presentation titles etc. will be sent to you in the New Year.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO AUCKLAND 6<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017.....*Have you marked those diaries?*

There will be another newsletter early in the New Year with more news but in the meantime, from all the Trustees a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year to you all  
Penny Zino