



New Zealand Branch

June 2017 - Newsletter 18

DoC and BGANZ MOU

At the Threatened Species Summit held in Wellington on 10th May 2017, BGANZ and Department of Conservation (DOC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on plant conservation.

It was signed by Hon Maggie Barry, Jack Hobbs (Auckland Botanic Gardens Manager), Lou Sanson (DOC Director General) and Bec Stanley (Convenor of BGANZ (NZ) and Auckland Botanic Gardens Curator).

This is an exciting achievement to have this partnership formally agreed upon and will help us work together effectively on future conservation projects. We look forward to working on threatened species projects together and promoting the work we do with plants.



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NEXT BGANZ NEW ZEALAND BRANCH WORKSHOP

Theme: How to increase the relevance of your garden to a changing audience
Venue: Pukeiti, New Plymouth (transport can be arranged from/to airport)

Date: Friday, 17 November
10.00 am Morning tea
10.30 am Inspection of the new and proposed developments
Mid-day lunch
1.00 pm to 2.30 pm Topic presentations

Contact Manager of Taranaki Regional Gardens
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Auckland Botanic Gardens



This summer ABG was overtaken by dinosaurs (and visitors)! The Dinosaurs in the Gardens (DiTG) event was extremely successful with more than 33,000 registrations over the ten weekends of Dinosaur Encounters.

They had 106,000 more page views on our website than the same time last year and a 148 per cent increase in views of our Event section of the website. One of the Facebook stories reached over 50,000 people!

Data from a recent survey indicated that 54 per cent of visitors had either never visited the Gardens or only visited a few times in their lives; 72 per cent of visitors were likely/extremely likely to return to the Gardens after DiTG finished and 50 per cent learnt something about the Gardens while visiting for DiTG.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

In February the CBG Spatial Plan was released, this plan is driven from the 2007 Management Plan. It was open for public feedback till the end of May. When signed off by the Council, it will be used over the next 30 years to seek funding for a number of major development projects.

For the last 6 months the *'Enchanted Garden Exhibition'* by Jenney Gillies has been held in the Kiosk building within the CBG. This is a collection of floral creations inspired by the beautiful surrounds of the Botanic Gardens.

In October this year there will be a change of lessee for the Café and Function Room in the BG Visitor Centre. V-Base who have been the operator since the building opened 3 years ago but has decided not to renew their contract.

The CBG was again a venue partner for the SCAPE public art exhibition. This is a 2 month exhibition held in public spaces in and around Christchurch's CBD. One piece by David McCracken called *'Diminish and Ascend'* has been given an extended season in the kiosk lake at the CBG. Planning is already under way for this year's exhibition entitled *'Time in Space'*.

Earlier in the year a 2 car EV (electric vehicle) charging station was installed in one of the car parks. This is part of the Electric Vehicle Charging Network. This is a national wide network with this station being one of three in the Christchurch area.

In the summer 2015/16 the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and the University of Canterbury funded research on one of the native mistletoes – *Ileostylus micranthus*

Because of the amount of public interest, this project raised. The Conservation & Sustainable Development Team lead by John Clemens is planning to collect seed from two species of native mistletoe and to make it available for the public to sow on trees in their home gardens.



'Diminish and Ascend'

To enquire about membership of BGANZ – New Zealand, contact Alan Matchett
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Wellington Botanic Garden

Following on from the Auckland dinosaur event WBG hosted the dinosaurs over Easter. They had 8000 bookings for the dinosaur shows which proved to be a great tool to talk about ancient plant species. Many more families were able to observe the shows from a distance.

Controlled trials continue with the three species of *Tradescantia fluminensis* beetle. The release sites have shown that the beetle populations are holding but there isn't too much evidence to date of the populations growing or naturally migrating to new pockets of *T.fluminensis*. However trials will continue because it is such an invasive weed.

The new Children's Garden has almost reached the end of the phase 2 construction. Named 'Te Kaapuia O Te Waoku' it will invite children and families to explore and understand people's dependence on plant for food, fibre, construction and medicine. The garden opens in late September this year with phase 3 being constructed as funding becomes available.



Photo credits: David St George

Otari Native Botanic Garden

The Otari team have recently been to Marlborough and Nelson seed collection for the New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seedbank. They have recently signed an agreement with Massey University to hold a satellite seedbank at Otari. The signing of the memorandum of understanding between BGANZ and the Department of Conservation looks as if it will be a significant step towards streamlining and facilitating seed collection and shared threatened species plant restoration programmes.

This has become especially important with the recent arrival of myrtle rust at already 55 infected sites identified. The Botanic garden team, through Conservation and Science Advisor Karin van der Walt is taking a key role in communicating the symptoms and signs of myrtle rust and the potential impact to Wellington. A 'back of an envelope' estimate of the potential cost of management across the city for managing future removals of dead trees came to over \$15mNZD and without accounting for downstream costs of revegetation and land management.

Earthquake repairs to Bolton Street Cemetery have been completed. Two obelisks shifted on their plinths and became very dangerous and another two memorials fell and shattered. Also completed was a small but unusual project to create an unknown memorials garden on the surface of the mass grave where burial remains from the motorway cut in the 1960's are held. Many of the parts of memorials and grave surrounds have been sitting in storage and a number of these which were known to have been removed but aren't associated with any the reinstated memorials elsewhere in the park. This has been a great project carried out in partnership with the Wellington Gardens team and the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery.

Hamilton Gardens

Work continues on the Hamilton Gardens Development Project with some key highlights:

Mansfield Garden: The façade of the villa, circular drive and tennis court are close to completion. General planting continues and the old fashioned roses will go in shortly. The team are liaising with various specialists around aspects of Katherine Mansfield's story 'The Garden Party' – including what food might be served at such an event.

Picturesque Garden: The main structure contract has been awarded and work is underway on installing the deep foundation posts and constructing the terrace for the Palladian Pavilion. A specialised contractor will start soon on the Sphinx Cave and various traditional sculptural features have been imported from Britain.

The Destination Playground opened in December and there was a 108 per cent increase in vehicles through Gate 2 which accesses the playground throughout December and January compared to the previous year.

Another report on paid entry or paid parking is being prepared by consultants. The Gardens was awarded Qualmark Gold in June.

Next projects include: Information Centre / Offices / Jetty refurbishment

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the Atlantic had died, been called up for military service

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Life in New Zealand

After a rat ran up his leg a few years ago, Pukekura Park boss Chris Connolly decided to do something about it.
Taranaki Daily News, 13/3/17

"Our rivers are going downhill very rapidly. Nothing in the Government's proposed plan will reverse that."
Dominion Post, 8/3/17

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On a beautiful sunny warm day you'll find me in my backyard with my family grilling on the barbecue.
Sunday, 13/3/17

"I have never owned a pair of gumboots in my life, much less thrown any, so it was quite a surprise to find I was national champion."
Sunday Star-Times, 12/3/17

The report also showed conscious consumers are thinking about the environment.
Press, 28/2/17

The cooking of Fish and other odious food is not permitted.
Motel sign, Tokaanu, April 2017

Pukekura Park

Taranaki, like a number of other regions around New Zealand has just come through one of the wettest summers on record. In the Fernery and display houses, which have received many accolades from visitors over recent weeks, they are trailing a number of old varieties of chrysanthemums with a view to selecting a wide range of colour and form which perform well in our conditions. The aim is to strengthen displays options for this time of year with chrysanthemums as the feature plant.

COMING EVENTS

19–23 June 2017

**American Public Gardens Association Conference
Hamilton Botanic Gardens, Ontario, Canada**

Go to publicgardens.org/professional-development for details.

26-30 June 2017

**BGCI's 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress
Geneva, Switzerland** Go to 6gbgc.org for details.

27–29 October 2017

**Australian Garden History Society 2017 Annual Conference
Hamilton Gardens, New Zealand**

The theme is 'People | Place | Landscape: expanding garden history'.

19–23 October 2019

**Plants from the Past. Plants for the Future.
Wellington Botanic Gardens as the final event of its 150th anniversary year.**

It will explore how gardens use plants to underpin their stories of education, conservation, heritage, landscape and aesthetics

For more information: www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/news