

Please mark these dates on your calendar

Members' Activities

2015

WORKING BEES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

9am Start
meet at The Lodge

MEMBERS' COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 15 - 9.30am at The Lodge
Tuesday, November 17 - 9.30am at The Lodge

BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 16 - 6.00pm at Govett Quilliam Offices

BUS TRIP

Saturday, November 21 - Sunday, November 22
Members' bus trip to Kimbolton to visit Cross Hills Nursery & Garden and Heritage Park.

MEETINGS

SPRING MEMBERS' DAY & AGM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 04
A selection of members' gardens which are not normally part of the festival will be open for members to visit.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
OPENING OF THE
KEILLER GARDEN
AND SPRING MEMBERS' DAY

SATURDAY, OCT 24 - MONDAY, OCT 26
Labour Weekend - volunteers needed for meet and greet and parking

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 08
2015 Taranaki Rhododendron Festival - volunteers needed for several host roles

END OF YEAR BBQ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
Please book with Secretary on 06 7522800 by Thurs, Dec 10



The Vireya House under construction, completion scheduled for the Autumn meeting in March.



Pukeiti NEWSLETTER

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.

www.pukeiti.org.nz



The Keiller Garden takes shape.

The wet cold dreary winter which seemed to linger forever has made the promise of spring even better.

A good set of buds on the rhododendrons, a few patches of colour and the progress on the developments all help the expectation. The big-leaved species and hybrids are in their first flush of flower, flashes of red of the *R. arboreum* and its various forms brighten up the dull days, and in preparation for the coming season the Hybrid and Stead Blocks look neat and well-polished.

But the dominating feature greeting visitors is the progress on the developments which although slowed by the almost incessant rain of winter is quite dramatic. Under the watchful eye of Greg Rine the expanded car park and entrance adds a grandeur to the gateway and expectation of the visit; the framework for the expanded Vireya Display house which replaces the original Covered Walk is also in place; the Perrot House and Conservatory, both of which will form part of the new vireya display area, are reglazed; the pathway which will lead from the Gatehouse Café on a gently sloping gradient through the collection, then through the bush to a viewing platform over-looking the Waterwheel, is also beginning to take shape. These developments are planned for completion, along with the planting, ready for a formal opening at our March meeting.

The focus of the next meeting, the AGM on Oct 17, will be the opening of the redesigned Keiller Garden. The structure in the centre of the garden is like a substantial frame of a house, reflecting the outline of the original curator's home, surrounded by paths and

the original planting. The centre of the 'frame house' is paved and the adjacent garden plots both inside and outside have been well prepared with top soil and compost mulch and planned mixed plantings. These feature rhododendrons and companion plants in combinations which are designed to inspire and suit home gardens. The rhododendron collection will feature NZ raised hybrids and species collected in China, each a

special interest of Robert Keiller. A raised pathway overlooks the garden and provides a most satisfying view. A shelter offers protection from the weather and a pathway similar to those already laid in parts of the garden will be extended to allow easy access for all to what promises to be a popular feature of Pukeiti.

Disappointingly prices for the planned work on the Lodge far exceeded the budgeted provision and the project has had to be modified. In the interim planned alterations to the members' kitchen, toilets and dining room will proceed along with a total reroof, but the accommodation will remain as is and simply be redecorated. Further changes could well be made in the future.

The reputation of Pukeiti as a special place and venue will be further enhanced on September 5, when a marquee big enough to house 500 people will be erected on the lawn to provide a venue for the signing of the Treaty Agreement between the Taranaki Iwi and the Crown - an historic occasion indeed.

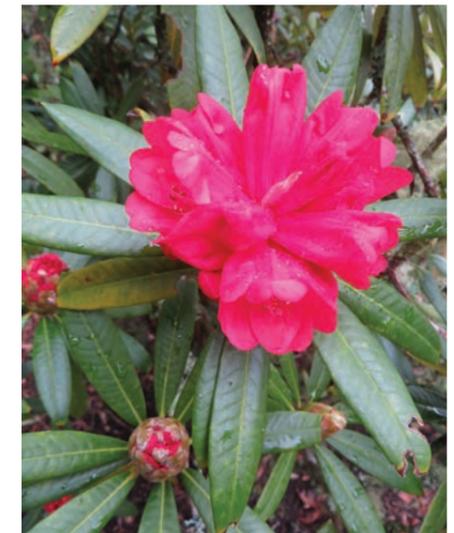
Pukeiti lies within the Taranaki rohi and the Trust has had a long association with Maori interests. Almost half of the property including the Rimu plantation and the track to the Paint Mines is on land which the Trust leased from PKW, the Parininihi ki Waitotara Trust which governs a large Maori perpetual leasehold land portfolio in Taranaki. The lease was transferred to the Regional Council when the ownership of the property was handed to it as part of the partnership agreement. Critical to the lease agreement is the conservation of the forest areas and from them the harvest of plants, under strict

supervision, for medicinal purposes. The carvings in the Founders' Garden are also a tribute to the long connection Maori have had with this land.

Lynn Bublitz

Pukeiti Trust Board Elections.

This year Mark Bruhn and John Eagles both retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. Nominations close with the Secretary on August 31 and if required, elections will be held at the AGM on Oct 17 2015. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary, Ph. 06 7522800.



R. arboreum ssp. *delavayi* grown from seeds collected in China in 1990.



Camellia 'Snow Drop'

Pukeiti
Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.

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New Plymouth 4340

Location: 2290 Carrington Rd. RD4

Secretary: Diane Jordan
Phone 06 7522800
jordy@primowireless.co.nz

Chairperson: Gordon Bailey
Gordon.Bailey@qldc.govt.nz

www.pukeiti.org.nz
is worth a look!



TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL www.trc.govt.nz

Office hours: Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm
Postal address: Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352
Location: 47 Cloten Road, Stratford 4332
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Thank you to all who have paid their subscriptions and to those who have made extra donations.



From the Members' Committee

Propagation Day held on 22 July 2015

A lovely winter morning provided the perfect time to divide perennials for both Pukeiti and the Trust. Heather, Heather Adrienne and Annette set forth to pot the plants Wendy had waiting for us. Potting mixture disappeared as rapidly as the plants, and in no time a tea break was earned. Not only did we enjoy the luxury of the new sunny staff quarters but a bonus of scones and jellies compliments of Heather, and chocolate cake provided by Andrew to mark his birthday. Back to selecting a few more perennials for the Pukeiti Trust plant list, more potting mixture and the job was done. An enjoyable morning for the willing members who gave their time to ensure the availability of plants for future plant lists.

Annette Cameron

Coming Members' Activities:

Wednesday, September 23.

Last Working Bee.

This is the last working bee before the festival and the gardeners would love to see as many volunteers as possible to help get Pukeiti looking as good as possible before the influx of festival visitors.

Sunday, October 04.

Members' Garden Visits.

This year we are visiting gardens in the Bell Block and Waitara area.

Meet at 10.30am Pai Rawa Atua, 10 Ludlow Place, Bell Block, Alan and Lorraine Inch's property.

From Bell Block roundabout head down Nugent St to Parklands Rd junction and turn left, then right onto Ellesmere Rd, then second left into Ludlow Place. Park on roadside.

Depart 11.45am for Frog Lodge, 39 Bishop Rd, David and Noeline Sampson's property.

Return to Bell Block bypass and head towards NP, turning first left at Egmont Rd, under rail bridge and then left into Bishop Rd. The entrance is on the left past the new Kingdom Hall on sharp right angle bend. Turn and park on roadside. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided at Frog Lodge.

Depart 1pm for Te Puke Awa, 486 Manutahi Rd, Lepperton, Graham and Robyn Lepper's property.

First return to Egmont Rd, turn left onto Henwood Rd. At the next junction turn right into Manutahi Rd and continue to the SH3A, turn left and then right over the railway line sharp left then right back onto Manutahi Rd over rail line and continue to the garden entrance on right. Park on roadside.

Depart 2pm for 84 Matarikoriko Rd, Waitara, Jim Rumbal's property.

Continue into Lepperton, turning left on to Richmond Rd and follow it all the way to Kairau Rd junction, turning right. Continue to Waitara Rd junction, then go straight ahead on to Matarikoriko Rd. Property on right, park on roadside.

Leaving Jim's garden go straight ahead down into Mamaku Rd and Waitara Valley to SH3, turning left for NP.

Saturday October 17.

The Opening of the Keiller Garden, Spring Members' Day & AGM.

This is going to be a very special day starting with the opening of the relandscaped Keiller Garden which was financed by the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust i.e. all you members who are reading this newsletter! All members are invited to this event and also to the lunch that will follow. The TRC are putting on the lunch which means that probably for the first time in the history of the Trust the AGM will not be preceded by a 'pot-luck' lunch. The AGM will follow the lunch.

11 am gather at the Gatehouse (the less mobile can be transported) and walk to the garden. If wet the ceremony will be held in The Gatehouse Rata Room.

11.15 am Opening Ceremony

Gordon Bailey Chair of the Trust will cut the ribbon following short addresses from TRC Representatives, Xanthe White, the designer, and Patricia Keiller, sister of Robert Keiller.

Noon - Lunch

Provided by the TRC at Founders Café.

1.30pm - AGM - Rata Room

2pm - Greg Rine TRC Gardens' Manager Presentation

Friday, October 30 – Sunday, November 08:

Taranaki Rhododendron Festival.

Once again we will be calling for volunteers to help with the garden at this time.

There will be a list at the AGM for members present to fill in. Otherwise if you could ring or e-mail Heather with the times you are available to help it will save her from ringing you.

Weekend of 21 & 22 November –

Members' bus trip to the Cross Hills Garden, Country Fair and Nursery.

This was originally planned as a day visit but, having spoken to the staff at Cross Hills, I realise that trying to drive to and from Kimbolton and visit the Garden Fair, garden and nursery let alone fitting in the visit to The NZ Rhododendron Association Heritage Park in one day is just too much. We have therefore changed this to a two day trip to make it a more leisurely experience.

Final details still have to be worked out but the plan at the moment is as follows:-

Saturday 21 November:

Depart New Plymouth between 8:30 & 9:00 am. Drive to Cross Hills and spend 3 – 4 hours there including lunch. Mid afternoon drive to Heritage Park to look at the collection of rhododendrons there. Saturday night motel accommodation to be arranged.

Sunday 22 November:

Depart from accommodation and drive to Paloma Garden in the Whanganui area. We will have lunch at Bason's Garden before returning home to New Plymouth. Depending on numbers, travel will be by bus or mini-van.

People who are not from New Plymouth are welcome to join us at Cross Hills if they wish.

There will not be another newsletter before this weekend so further information will have to be sent out by post or e-mail. In order to facilitate this expressions of interest are invited from members who would like to be kept up with developments. Please let Heather know if you are interested. Phone (06) 757 -2460 or e-mail h.robson@xtra.co.nz

Fairfield Garden Centre.

New Plymouth members may have noticed that Adrian McLeod has sold the garden centre. The new owners, Wendy and Derek Gibson, took over the running of the business on Monday 17 August and over the next few months members will see several new things happening at the garden centre. There will still be a number of familiar faces and Wendy and Derek plan to continue stocking an eclectic range of plants. They will also continue to offer Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Members a 10% discount on their purchases.

Adrian will be having a well earned rest before starting a small garden consultancy business, guiding people on how to maintain their gardens. He will not actually be doing landscaping plans but rather advising owners when and how to feed, spray and prune their plants so their gardens will continue to look well landscaped long after the planting has finished.

We wish Adrian a happy 'retirement' and thank him for his support and guidance over the years he has owned Fairfields.



Dawsonia superba - A male colony of the moss.

From the Garden Manager



R. arboreum ssp. *albotomentosum*



Hamamelis mollis 'Pallida'



The last of the Hydrangea before pruning

The garden has come through the winter surprisingly well and heads to spring with the hope of, if not drier then warmer days to come. As I write this the large-leaf collection is awakening with the protistums, both species and hybrid forms, starting to do their stuff. One of the layers left where *Rhododendron* 'Pukeiti' once stood has its blooms opening, with the two smaller and younger plants recovering well from the wet winter. Nearby on the corner of the Corrigan and Gordon walks the plant of 'Pukeiti' which I grafted in the early 90s is also flowering with a healthy covering of bloom on most branches. These pink heads are also picked up by the plants opposite.

The Valley of Giants walk is by far the best path to follow through the garden at present. Not only do you have the first flowers of the giant rhododendrons to take in, there are also the rich reds of *R. arboreum* ssp. *albotomentosum* dotted along the way. The heady fragrance of *Daphne bholua* mingles with the softer scent of *Hamamelis mollis* 'Pallida' with its bright yellow sepals. Arching above the Larcom walk the towering form of *Magnolia campbellii* sits with swelling buds just waiting for the right moment to burst open lending their colour and splendour to the space.

Work in the garden has been progressing well. With all that is going on in the main

area, the team has still kept up with the maintenance further afield. A fortunate by-product of the redevelopment of the carpark has been the creation of a mountain of mulch for the garden and this has been labouriously spread from The Lodge to the Hybrid Block giving us a good cover to the garden beds in time for spring. We are nearing the planting stage for the Keiller Garden with beds mulched, drains finished and nearly all the final hard landscape activity over, putting us on track for the grand opening at the Spring Members' Day.

Lara's work with the BG Base has continued at a good pace with accession labels now attached to over ninety percent of the plants growing in the garden. It is important to note that this is not limited to the rhododendron collection alone, but takes in all planted collections as well as notable natives within Pukeiti's care.

As with last year's Spring Members' Day there will be a range of plants available to you all at a discounted rate prior to the festival period and our annual sale.

Happy gardening

Andrew Brooker

Pukeiti Collections.

A meeting of the Garden Forum group was held in July, with Marion Mackay and Doug Thomson in attendance. Prior to the meeting Andrew Brooker had circulated a draft of the Pukeiti Collection Strategy.

It was a positive and rewarding meeting. The work done at Pukeiti by Lara and Andrew, with the help of Graham Smith, recording the collection details on the BG Base was described. The labelling and methodology used are all top class but some variation in recording was suggested. Work is still to be done on research of the IUCN status of the plants.

Discussion was held on the species which grow well at Pukeiti and therefore the groups best suited for ex-situ conservation. The key subsections are Maddenia, Falconera, Arborea, Grandia, Vireya, and to be also considered Irrorata and Tsutsusi. These would be the target of seed collection and acquisitions to ensure a broad base of genetic stock of each species within the groups. Other species, of course, would be grown - but it is important to understand that not all do well at Pukeiti.

The Trust will have a role to play in assisting in the collection and on-going conservation of these rhododendrons.



Magnolia "Cook's Supreme"



Fallen Magnolia leaves

PUBLISHING OCTOBER 2015

A new book covering all species of big-leaf rhododendrons from world authority on the genus Graham Smith with gardening author Glyn Church.

Rhododendrons have always been regarded as the elite plants of the garden, and the big-leaf rhododendrons are the giants of the family, both literally and figuratively.

This book explores how these amazing plants were discovered, provides practical tips on propagation and cultivation, and looks at conservation in a garden situation as well as in the wild.

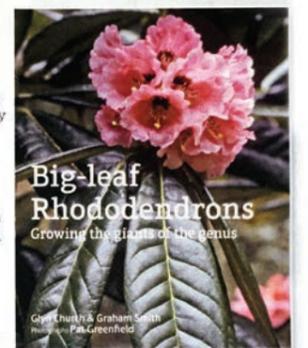
Covers all species of big-leaf rhododendrons known to date, with chapters on the introduction of rhododendrons from their native habitats in Asia, and public and private gardens with the best collections.

Superbly illustrated, including over 200 colour photographs by Pat Greenfield, this is a fascinating journey into the world of rhododendrons.

RRP \$59.99
Publication date October 2015
292 x 235 mm, 176 pages
Full colour, cased and jacketed



Pukeiti
Rhododendron Trust Inc.



Bateman
www.batemanpublishing.co.nz

Supported by the
TSB Community Trust

Copies can be ordered from the Secretary Diane Jordan, Phone 06 7522800 or email: jordy@primowireless.co.nz

Nepal Earthquake Appeal - Kenneth Cox has launched a special appeal to support areas in Nepal noted for Rhododendron treks. Many have been badly effected by the earthquake and donations will be directed to agencies assisting people in these areas. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Details visit: www.glendoick.com/Nepal-Earthquake-Appeal