



Pukeiti NEWSLETTER

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.



www.pukeiti.org.nz



Welcome to 2016 and the lazy, hazy days of summer.

Here in Taranaki we are having an amazing spell of hot, fine weather – great for sitting back and enjoying the garden and reaping the benefits of all the hard work put into it at other times of the year. I keep thinking that if this is climate change – bring it on - then I check myself thinking of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events around the globe and the fact that they are only likely to increase in intensity and occurrence and that is not good!

Up at Pukeiti there has been little time for the staff to sit back and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

The replacement for the old Beverley McConnell covered walkway is now finished and all that remains to be done is the installation of the irrigation system. Andrew plans to install this in the near future so it can be tested to ensure there are no dry patches before the vireyas are replaced in their new environment. Wendy will welcome the increased space in the shade houses and nursery area when these plants are resited this Autumn. Also finished is the aerial walkway to view the waterwheel. This is also a steel structure in keeping with the new covered walkway, very sturdy and wheelchair accessible. Presently it looks very much like a construction site but when the the bush around the new structure regenerates it will be a great new attraction for Pukeiti. When finance becomes available in the future the plans are to extend it across the stream and through the bush to opposite the water wheel. The path to the water wheel now starts along

this walkway. The access from behind The Lodge being closed off and left to regenerate. At the end of the aerial walkway, steps take you down to ground level and the walk continues along the old path, past the waterwheel to the end of the track at the culvert overlooking the stream.

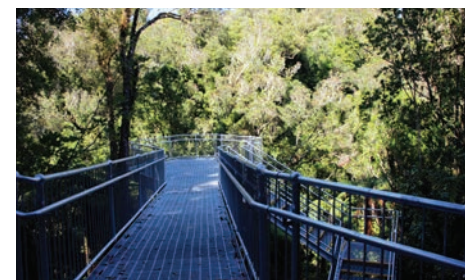
The contractors have also finished the major earthworks and construction involved with the Misty Knoll situated at the garden end of the Lodge Lawn. There are minor cosmetic touches still to be done and the staff are letting the earth settle before bringing in topsoil and planting the area. This will enable any irregularities in the contour of the area to be fixed before they become permanent. Again this will be an Autumn project.

These projects are nearing completion but there is no rest for the garden although the next stage will be slightly less disruptive of the planting. Come May, the contents of the Gatehouse will be completely packed up and put into storage in preparation for the remodelling that is planned for this area. Those who have visited Pukeiti recently will have noted that the planned remodelling of the Members' Lodge did not, for largely financial reasons, go ahead last year. Renovating it was going to cost so much that it has been decided it is better to start again from scratch. A purpose built Lodge that caters for the needs of our current membership and those that the Board can currently foresee will be needed in the near future will be a much wiser use of the funds available. I understand that this will definitely happen in

the next financial year. It does mean we will have been without the lodge for the best part of 2 years and that after May this year there will be no building up at Pukeiti that members will have for their use. This will impact on some of our regular events but your committee is looking at making this a positive and we hope you will enjoy and support the creative solutions we come up with.

The record sunshine hours this January, along with the regular rainfall that Pukeiti attracts even when dryer than normal, has meant the weeds have been trying to set new growth rate records. The staff have been working full on to keep ahead of the garden chores as well as tidy up after the contractors left. All the extra work the staff have had to cope with this year meant they were particularly appreciative of having the services of one of the Students the TRC employs over the academic holidays. Paul Stevenson, a Mechanical Engineer student, was excellent value and Andrew says he has set the bar very high for next year's student.

The new shape of Pukeiti Garden is becoming very clear now and it is an exciting year ahead for the garden. The staff will still have lots of challenges working around construction work and contractors and they do a wonderful job keeping Pukeiti looking



The Aerial Walkway



The Misty Knoll awaiting plants

From the Members' Committee,

This newsletter includes the Members' Plant List and the 2016 Calendar of events for Pukeiti Members.

The 2016 Calendar is printed on the back page of this newsletter. The events we have planned include all the old favourites but this year we are offering two NZ based trips for Members. The first is an Autumn trip to the North Island East Coast. It is some years since we have done a trip to this area and we hope many members will be excited about seeing some of New Zealand's iconic gardens again. Trip summary in yellow box on the right, further information on the back of the plant order form. In a later newsletter we will include information about the proposed Spring trip.

1. Working Bees: We continue to offer Members the opportunity to be involved with the garden by scheduling working bees. The number of members able to participate in these continues to decline, but the TRC Staff really do appreciate any help they can get with the garden. The first three working bees this year will be on **Wednesday February 24; Wednesday, March 23 & Saturday, April 30**. Working bees start at 9:00am from the Staff Quarters (although late-comers are always welcome).

(Our annual Propagation day for hardwood cuttings will no longer take place now that the arrangements for propagating Pukeiti rhododendrons and

other shrubs in the garden has changed.)

2. Thursday, March 31st. Plant sale orders close and we will try to dispatch the out of town orders during the following week. You are again advised to get your orders for plants in quickly to optimise your chances of getting the plants you order. Many of the rhododendrons on offer and some of the plants from Woodleigh Nurseries are in short supply and it may be a bit of a lottery as to whether you get the plants you request but you have zero probability if you don't send an order in and your chances will be greatly enhanced by returning your order promptly.

3. Saturday, April 09 is our **Autumn Members' day** at Pukeiti.

A cup of tea or coffee will be available in the Rata Room from 10:30am and members will also be able to pick up their plant orders from this time. At 11:00am Graham Smith will lead a pre-lunch tour round the garden and at approx 12:30 the Members' Pot Luck Lunch will be served in the Rata Room. As there will be a board meeting the previous night, you will be able to meet and talk with many of your board members over lunch. Following lunch, Gordon Bailey has kindly agreed to give us an illustrated talk about his recent plant hunting trip to NW China and the Tibetan Plateau.

Members' Committee Chair
Heather Robson

Spring Trip to the Manawatu

On Saturday, 21st November, 18 Pukeiti members set out by minibus and car to visit gardens in the Manawatu region. Our first stop was for morning-tea at the "Pukeko's Nest" café at Westmere, just north of Wanganui. We continued on through Feilding, to Cross Hills Gardens and Nursery, rhododendron and azalea specialists. Our visit co-incided with the annual Country Fair being held there, which gave those who wished, the opportunity to browse the numerous stalls of quality handcrafted items, and fresh country produce. The disadvantage was the crowds of people, creating long queues at toilet and refreshment facilities, so that waiting took up some of our allotted garden viewing time. Once I'd had lunch, my first stop was the plant nursery, where I purchased the latest catalogue. It is about 25 years since I last visited Cross Hills, so it was difficult to get my bearings, as the trees and larger

rhododendrons now obscure the view from one part of the garden to the next. One thing I recognized from earlier visits was the border of standard *Rhododendron yakushimanum* edging the path to the café – something I thought most unusual when I first saw it. I found a collection of conifers as I wandered through the gardens. One in particular caught my eye. It's bluey/green upright growth was surrounded by horizontal growth – it's own "Christmas tree skirt". Unfortunately David Sampson wasn't anywhere in sight at that moment to enlighten me as to it's name.

As we boarded the minibus again, large drops of rain began to fall, and accompanied us back to the village of Kimbolton, where we visited the New Zealand Rhododendron Association Heritage Garden. (Up until then, the day had been mainly grey, with only a few

Pukeiti Autumn Trip

A Visit to the East Coast.

Transport in an air-conditioned coach.

Day 1: Monday, 02 May
New Plymouth to Napier

Morning tea in Whanganui and then continue via Fielding and Dannevirke to Gwavas Garden for lunch. Afternoon guided tour around the Homestead and garden. Stay in a Napier motel.

Day 2: Tuesday, 03 May
Napier to Gisborne

Lunch at Hackfalls Arboretum and guided walk round the grounds. Overnight stay in a Gisborne motel.

Day 3: Wednesday, 04 May
Gisborne to Napier

Most of the day, including lunch at Eastwoodhill Arboretum. Drive back to Napier to the same motel as Day 1.

Day 4: Thursday, 05 May
Napier to New Plymouth

The drive home is broken by a guided tour of the Huka Lodge Gardens and a cut lunch at the home of our Patron, Gordon Collier.

Indicative price \$1,000pp twin share. \$240 single supplement. Price includes is Transport, Entrance fees, Guided walks, 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners and 3 nights accommodation.

If you are interested in joining this trip in New Plymouth or elsewhere on the route, please contact Heather (06) 757 2460 or e.mail: h.robson@xtra.co.nz by Friday, 25 March.

drops of rain here and there as we travelled.) Although light rain fell intermittently while we were walking around the Heritage Garden it was not enough to dampen our enthusiasm. Most of us were safely in the shelter of the garden pavilion having tea and biscuits supplied by the garden volunteers when some heavier rain fell. The Heritage Garden has matured considerably since I last saw it over 20 years ago. My highlights this time were a large chestnut tree in full bloom, and a rhododendron (unfortunately not labelled) – a very attractive, small bush with leaves and growth habit like *Rhododendron williamsianum*, with very dainty, small single open saucer-shaped pure white flowers. When we left Kimbolton, we bypassed Feilding and headed direct to Palmerston North, to Rose City Motel, our overnight stop. We ran out of the rain, and before we reached Palmerston, a few



Lunch Venue at Massey



Cross Hills Conifer

ragged patches of blue sky were beginning to appear. Later it turned out a very pleasant evening.

We had a choice of venues for dinner. Six of us opted for fine dining at the Elm Café, while the others chose the convivial atmosphere of Rosie O'Grady's Irish Pub. All were well satisfied with their choice.

We were up early on Sunday morning, to gather at Heather's motel unit, where she had provided the "makings" for a picnic lunch. We each made and packaged our own sandwiches ready to depart before 9 a.m. Our first visit of the day was to Susan and Lindsay Davies garden in one of the outer suburbs of the city. This was not an immaculately landscaped "show" garden, but a glorious, extensive plantsman's paradise. There seemed to be every imaginable interesting or rare plant from almost every plant family. Susan is especially interested in breeding rhododendrons, so we viewed a number of her lovely crosses. Lindsay's speciality is irises (he was absent at an iris convention at the time of our visit) so there was a lovely display of different types of iris. Around every corner there was something of interest. I pushed myself and my walking stick almost beyond limits, until my legs were nearly buckling under me. I was determined not to miss a thing! One specimen I found particularly intriguing was a Magnolia from Mexico. The foliage looked like grey/green fronds of a large banana palm, and it had huge creamy/white flowers. For me, the Davies' garden was the highlight of the trip. The Davies' tenacity and courage impressed me, too. In 2004 much of their garden was destroyed under four feet of water in the disastrous flood that year, so they

had to start all over again. The Davies' and their pets had to be winched to safety by helicopter. By the time we left the Davies' garden, the day, which had begun overcast and threatening, had become reasonably fine, but the wind had become extremely blustery.

We next headed for the grounds of Massey University, where Marion MacKay was our hostess and guide, pointing out rare specimen trees, and other features of interest on the campus. When the land for the original Massey Agricultural College was purchased many years ago, it comprised four grand homesteads and their grounds. Two of the original homesteads have been retained on the campus, and modern highrise buildings have been added. As the morning wore on, the wind rose to gale force. We could hear and see the tops of the trees thrashing about in the wind, but at ground level, we were completely sheltered. We had our lunch in an idyllic spot. There were picnic tables set out on a wide lawn in front of one of the original large two-storey homesteads, with a lovely sunken garden at the foot of the lawn – the whole area enclosed and sheltered by mature trees, which screened the modern buildings from view.

After lunch, we set out for Taranaki. Once we were out on the open road the wind hit us with full force. Even in a vehicle as large as a minibus we were buffeted by heavy gusts, which must have made our driver's job very tiring. The wind eased to merely very blustery by the time we reached Wanganui. At Westmere, north of Wanganui we headed west off the main road to visit the Bason Botanical Reserve. We had a short time allowed to walk in the upper area of the gardens around the



Exotic Bloom at Bason Reserve.

original homestead, and where the conservatories are. A feature of this part of the reserve is the palm trees. In wandering around the upper gardens, I discovered an interesting collection of cacti and succulents growing on the face of a bank. There was one large plant with huge panicles of ruby red flowers that I have never seen before. Back in the minibus we were driven around the lower gardens and the lake, and viewed a variety of trees as we passed by. We left the Botanical Reserve by a different route through the countryside, rejoining the main road at Maxwell. It was then plain sailing home to Taranaki.

Thank you so much to Heather Robson for organizing such an enjoyable tour, and to Peter Catt for driving us. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Dawn Gaskin

Please mark these dates on your calendar

Members' Activities

2016

WORKING BEES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

WEDNESDAY MARCH 23

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10



PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 - 9:30AM

Meet in Propagation area. Propagating perennial plants.

MEMBERS' COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 02 - 9:30am in the Rata Room

Tuesday, April 26 - 9:30 in the Rata Room

Tuesday, September 06 - 9:30

Tuesday, November 15 - 9:30

BOARD MEETINGS

Friday, April 08 - 6:00pm at Govett Quilliam Offices

Friday, June 24 - 6:00pm at Govett Quilliam Offices

Friday, September 23 - 6:00pm at Govett Quilliam Offices

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

PLANT SALE ORDERS CLOSE



Pukeiti

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.



Postal address: PO Box 1066
New Plymouth 4340

Location: 2290 Carrington Rd. RD4

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

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

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

MEETINGS

AUTUMN MEMBERS' DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 09

11:00am Garden Walk, 12:30pm Pot Luck Lunch in the Rata Room followed by a talk given by Gordon Bailey.

PLANT SALES & PICK UP - 10:30AM ONWARDS

SPRING MEMBERS' DAY & AGM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Details later in the year

OTHER ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Revive the Memories Day. 1:30 in the Rata Room. Afternoon tea followed by a tour of the gardens. Older members especially welcome. Contact Diane or Heather for further information.

FIRST WEEK OF MAY

Members' Tour to Napier & Gisborne.

Expressions of interest to Heather please on (06) 757-2460 or at h.robson@xtra.co.nz

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

MID - WINTER LUNCH

Please book with secretary on (06) 752 2800 by Wednesday, June 22.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 06

2016 Taranaki Rhododendron Festival - volunteers needed for parking & meet and greet.

MID- LATE NOVEMBER

Members' trip to the Auckland area to visit gardens in their spring splendour. Details will be revealed in a later newsletter.

END OF YEAR BBQ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Please book with Secretary on 06 7522800 by Thursday, December 08

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

www.trc.govt.nz

Office hours	Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm	Environmental hotline	0800 736 222
Postal address	Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352	Regional gardens	regional.gardens@trc.govt.nz
Location	47 Cloten Road, Stratford 4332	Greg Rine	Phone: (06) 765 7127 Mobile: 027 240 2470
Phone	0800 736 222 (06) 765 7127	Andrew Brooker	Phone: (06) 765 7127 or Phone (06) 752 4141 Mobile 0210 264 4060
Email	info@trc.govt.nz		



Members' Plant List

Welcome to the plant list for 2016. This really is a constantly evolving feature as we try, with varying success, to source special plants through avenues other than just the limited supply available from Pukeiti. The Board has to come to an arrangement with a local nursery to propagate Pukeiti rhododendrons for Members but these won't be available for another year. With the covered walkway out of commission, the availability of Vireya Rhododendrons is particularly limited and will continue to be in the near future as the plants in the covered walkway, even when they get established will not be used for propagation. Andrew hopes to establish back up plants in the propagation area which will eventually be used for this. We are still working on a solution to this. Many of the plants on offer this year, are not ones that have been propagated especially for members but rather, are plants that have been propagated for the TRC Gardens and are surplus to their needs. There are only 2 – 5 of each of these plants available. Many of the plants from Woodleigh this year are also in short supply. If the description of the plant has 'ss' at the end, it means it is one of these and, you need to order it quickly. Remember we work on a first come, first served basis so if you really want one of the plants I strongly suggest ordering immediately by return mail.

Again I am keeping a record of those plants where demand exceeds supply and, if they are not readily available from garden centres, I'll try to get more of these plants propagated the following year. That way, if you miss out on your wanted plant this year, there will be another opportunity to purchase it in 2-3 years time. It means that even if you missed out on the plants you wanted last year, there is still a good reason to send in a plant order, because if you miss out again this year your order will activate the repeat propagation of that plant. If you don't order it we will be unaware of the demand for it from our members.

The letter attached to the number will indicate where it has been sourced from:

- P** = Pukeiti;
W = Woodleigh Nurseries;
O = Member's Garden surplus.

We do encourage members ordering plants to collect them from Pukeiti on Members' day, if possible. This optimises the condition of the plants you receive and decreases the cost to you. For those who need their plants sent to them we will be using a different courier this year, the costs in the table are approximate.

All plants are believed to be correctly named and true to description but no guarantees are given in this respect as the descriptions given are based on research and not intimate knowledge of the parent plants. Plants grown from seed may vary considerably from the typical appearance of the species. Size and flowering is a rough guide and can vary according to local conditions.

Please use the guide below to allow enough for the freight on your limited open order cheque. Because so many of the plants are in short supply this year, we are not requiring a minimum order, so alternatives do not need to be given unless you wish to.

Postage & Packaging	Plants Freight	Plants Freight	Plants Freight
Short Haul (Taranaki)	1-9 \$15.00	10-18 \$29.00	19-27 \$43.00
Rest of N.I	1-5 \$18.00	6-10 \$34.00	11-15 \$50.00
Mainland S.I.	1-5 \$20.00	6-10 \$37.00	11-15 \$54.00
Rural delivery	<i>An additional charge of \$6.00 per carton for all areas</i>		

PAYMENT. Write across the top of the cheque

'Limited to \$.....'

(The dollar amount you put in this space is the maximum amount you have worked out that your order could cost and the maximum amount your cheque can be made out for.)

Make your cheque payable to **Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and sign and cross it** in the normal way. The rest of your cheque will then be filled in by us after we have determined the actual value of plants supplied and the actual freight charge. You will receive a receipt for the exact amount your cheque has been made out for so you can keep track of your actual spending. **NB.** Only write on the cheque across the top 'Limited to \$.....', fill in the payee and cross the cheque. We will fill in the rest.

Plant prices this year are more variable than usual and are a reflection of the different prices we have paid for the plants from the different suppliers as well as the size of the plants being supplied.

About our contributing nursery:

Woodleigh Nurseries: Janica and Quin Amoores purchased Woodleigh from Glyn and Gail Church in 2011. They continue to specialize in hydrangeas but are also developing lines in scented plants, choice native plants and are stocking an eclectic range of plants not commonly found in garden centres.
www.magnoliagrover.co.nz

Handy Hint

How to get hydrangea to keep in water

Cut from new growth only, old wood does not take up water. Cut when the tiny flower in the centre of the florette is open. Leave the first pair of leaves on the stem.

Put in warm water up to the head over night, or lay in warm water in a baby bath. Water to be as warm as you would use to bathe a baby.

Rhododendrons

All these plants have been propagated at Pukeiti either from seed or cuttings of plants growing in the garden.

- 1P *R. archiboldianum*: This is an exciting offering for collectors of vireyas. This species (although Marion MacKay states there is some evidence it may be a naturally occurring hybrid between *R. culminicola* & *R. herzogii*) was sourced from Papua New Guinea, is currently red listed and is rare in cultivation. The pink flowers are trumpet-shaped, slightly curved, about 5cm long and held in umbels of up to 15 flowers. They burst outwards from the centre of the truss which I guess is why Graham Smith named Pukeiti's specimen as 'Starburst'. 3m \$15.00
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- 2P *R. burmanicum* - Brodich form: This species is a parent of most of the yellow Rhododendron Hybrids. A Yellow flowered member of the Maddenia Series which forms a compact bush when given enough light. The flowers are usually scented. (ss) 2m early-mid \$15.00
-
- 3P *R. calostrotum ssp riparium*: Typically a free-flowering plant that has flat saucer-shaped flowers of a rich pink to rosy- purple with crimson spotting in the throat. (ss) 2m \$15.00
-
- 4P *R. ciliatum*: (RBGE best form.) First Introduced by Joseph Hooker in 1849 it is one of the first species of the Maddenia subsection, along with *R. maddenii* and *R. dalhousiae*, to be described and introduced into cultivation. It is not often found on sale these days which is a pity given its history, its semi-dwarf habit, attractive foliage and large funnel-shaped blush white flowers. Generally the inflorescence contains three or four flowers which are held and displayed rather loosely. Overall the large flowers and loose truss give a light and airy grace which goes well with the character of the plant's growth. It is one of the parents of *R. 'Princess Alice'* and of *R. 'Dora Amateus'* 1m Sept – Oct \$15.00
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- 5P *R. fragrantissima* - Caerhays form: Large, trumpet shaped, intensely fragrant white flowers. Responds to pruning. For those who missed out last year, another opportunity to purchase this, but you'll have to be quick. (ss) 1.5m October \$15.00
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- 6P *R. formosum* var. *formosum* - Gigha form: Another of the Ciliicalyx Alliance, the name "formosum" means "beautiful" according to one of my sources. There are up to 6 fragrant, wide-open trumpet-shaped flowers per truss. They start out as decidedly pink buds but by the time they are fully open are almost white with just a touch of pink. (ss) 1.5m mid \$15.00
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- 7P *R. Griersonianum*: A spreading, open shrub from S. W. Yunnan. It has green lanceolate leaves up to 20cm long with patchy white to pale brown indumentum below. The flower truss is made up of 5 – 12 bright red to orange-red funnel shaped flowers. Possibly extinct in the wild. 2m Late. (ss) \$15.00
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- 8P *R. hippophaoides* - AM form: One of the 12 smaller Rhododendron Species Cox specifically mentions for the 'beauty of its flower' and also one of his 5 'best blues'. These are from a cutting grown from Douglas Cook's original import. The shrub has an erect habit, compact to sprawling depending a little on its environment. Trusses of 4-8 funnel- shaped Lavender-blue flowers 1.5cm long. One of the hardest blues. 1.5m Oct \$15.00
-
- 9P *R. kanehirae*: A small crimson-pink azalea which is probably now extinct in the wild. Coming from the mountains of Taiwan it is a good plant for colder areas, its spreading habit makes it an ideal plant for ground cover but we do have only 3 plants for sale this year. (ss) Up to 1-3 m Early \$20.00
-
- 10P *R. laguniculicarpum*: The second vireya on our list is a native of Indonesia, which grows into a much branched shrub or tree. Small (about 2cm long) orange, bell-shaped flowers hang in trusses of 4-6. 2m \$15.00
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- 11P *R. parryae* - Brodich form: A fine later flowering species from Yunnan, China. A slightly fragrant, white flowered shrub with handsome foliage makes a spreading shrub to 2m. November (ss) \$15.00
-
- 12P *R. scabrifolium ssp spiciferum*: Trusses of 1-4 funnel-shaped flowers coloured white through to pink. Leaves narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, bristly above and scaly below. (ss) 1.8m August – September \$15.00
-
- 13P *R. veitchianum*: Another offering from the Maddenia sub- section, it has relatively large, white frilly flowers that are wonderfully fragrant. The flowers tend to have a greenish hue in bud and when open may have a pale yellow throat. The plant itself can be kept bushy and the attractive oval leaves are offset nicely by the red, papery bark of the branches. Being a Maddenia it is not particularly frost hardy but, on the positive side, it is more thrip resistant. If your area is prone to frosts I would strongly suggest providing frost protection especially when young. 1.5m \$15.00

RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS

- 14P *R. 'Barbara Jury'*: A vigorous shrub with dark glossy foliage and brown indumentum. The scented soft yellow trumpet-shaped flowers are darker yellow on the outside and also have a darker throat. 5-6 flowers per truss. (ss) 2m November \$12.00
-
- 15P *R. 'Butterhorn'*: An American *Maddenia* hybrid with an upright habit, bronze new growth and fine bright yellow trumpet shaped flowers in late spring. 1.8m Nov-Dec. \$10.00
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- 16P *R. 'Coconut Ice'*: (*yakushmanum x aberconwayi*) A Pukeiti hybrid which grows into a compact shrub with dark green foliage. Flowers held in tight trusses starting as pink buds and opening to white blooms with rose edges. A very attractive effect. 1m Mid-season. \$10.00
-
- 17P *R. 'Elna'*: Another old hybrid, rarely offered for sale these days. It is a reliable late flowering red with *R. elliottii* as a parent. Dull green leaves have a buff brown indumentum to them topped with waxy flowers in late spring. Grows to a height of 3m. (ss) \$15.00
-
- 18P *R. 'Floral Gift'*: [Michael's Pride (*burmanicum x dalhousiae*) x *polyandrum*.] A Mark Jury hybrid which grows into a compact shrub, especially if pruned after flowering. With all parents heavily perfumed it is unsurprising that Floral Gift is also heavily perfumed. Flowers of heavy texture in creamy white, flushed pink with a green to yellow throat. 1.8m M \$10.00
-
- 19P *R. 'Frosted Ice'*: Like *R. 'coconut ice'* this is another *Yakushmanum x aberconwayi* hybrid bred at Pukeiti by Graham Smith. It also has a nice compact habit but the flowers are pure white. Attractive, dark green foliage. 1m Mid-season \$10.00
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- 20P *R. 'Homestead'*: (*griersonianum* X 'Ilam Alarm') A New Zealand (Ilam) hybrid 'Homestead' is a lower growing, open habit bush. The deep red flowers are held in rounded trusses. (ss) 1.5m October \$10.00
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- 21P *R. 'Kaka'*: (*griersonianum* X 'Ilam Alarm') Another Stead hybrid from same cross as above. Vigorous lax habit to 2m X 3m. Wonderful rounded trusses of 12-14 crimson-red, funnel-shaped flowers. Prefers some shade. \$10.00
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- 22P *R. 'Manapouri Sunrise'*: NZ hybrid, compact habit with soft hairy leaves. Floriferous nature with pink and white flowers smothering the plant. October flowering, grows to 1m in ten years \$10.00
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- 23P *R. 'Oregonia'*: An old Exbury hybrid that is rarely offered for sale now, it has deep rich pink flowers speckled even deeper in an excellent truss. Prefers woodland shade. (ss) 1.5m late \$15.00
-
- 24P *R. 'My Pretty One'*: (*R. moupinense* X *R. carneum*) A rambling shrub with attractive, mahogany coloured peeling bark. Flowers shallow trumpet shaped, apple blossom pink, fading to almost white with lightly flecked flare. 1m early (ss) \$10.00
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- 25P *R. 'Prue White'*: This *maddenia* hybrid was named at Pukeiti. The open trusses of pink buds mature into sweet scented blush white flowers with a creamy yellow flare. 1.5m \$10.00
-
- 26P *R. 'Merlin'*: (Glenn Dale Azalea) An upright, spreading, evergreen azalea with narrow matte green leaves. Showy clusters of large lilac-purple, maroon-flecked blooms smother the plant and tend to drop after fading rather than persisting on the plant. Grows best in warm summers and some winter cold. Prefers partial shade. (ss) 1.2m – 1.8m mid-late spring. \$10.00
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- 27P *R. 'White Gift'*: A Wilson seedling gifted to Pukeiti in the 1980s which was named White Gift by Graham after much deliberation. The flowers are a chartreuse green fading to white in early spring on a plant of 1.5m. Deep brown flaky bark is a great feature all year round. (ss) \$10.00

HYDRANGEAS

Because of our arrangement with Woodleigh nurseries, we are able to offer a fine selection of lovely hydrangeas. These are easy care hardy shrubs that again are being rightfully recognised as a perfect garden plant to provide late summer colour, sometimes autumn colour and are long lasting as cut flowers. Please remember that *Hydrangea* flower colour is determined by the soil pH. Acid soils suitable for hydrangeas will bring out the blues and purples whilst alkaline soils will give pinks and reds. Whites are not affected.

- 28W *Hydrangea aspera* 'Monkey Bridge': A wonderful tree hydrangea with massive lavender, pink & white lacecap flower heads +/- 45cm across. It is an evergreen hydrangea with large, reddish, hairy leaves. Requires a sheltered situation with plenty of room as it is tender, brittle and very large. (ss) \$17.00
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- 29W *H. aspera* 'Villosa': Beautiful lilac-blue lacecap flowers through late summer. A very attractive, large growing shrub with narrow hairy leaves. Grow in full sun or light shade. 2m \$14.00
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- 30W *H. Chinensis* 'formosana': A rare species collected in the wilds of Taiwan. Narrow, shiny, dark green foliage, with delightful white lacecaps. Forms a tidy, evergreen shrub of about 1m. \$14.00

- 31W *H. lobbii*: A species from Taiwan. A semi-evergreen shrub with glossy dark green leaves and white lacecap flowers. Plant in a sheltered position in full sun. Protect from frost. \$13.00
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- 32 *H. macrophylla* 'Red Start': A delightful lacecap which forms a dense shrub with textured, saucer shaped, mid-green leaves that colours in Autumn. The large flowers form on two year old wood in summer. The sterile bracts round the outside of the flower have spiralled dark red petals (a rich purple in acidic soils). The true flowers in the middle are two toned white and red (white and blue). Hardy 1.5m
- 32P 1 year old cuttings from Pukeiti \$6.00
- 32W More established plants from Woodleigh Nurseries \$13.00
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- 33W *H. macrophylla* 'Bloody Marvellous': Red leaves and superb red wine flowers in mophead fashion. In Europe this is called Merveille Sanguine which translates as Marvellous Blood. \$13.00
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- 34W *H. macrophylla* 'Paris': A real red mophead, maintaining its colour well in acid soils. Compact. 1m \$13.00
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- 35W *H. paniculata* 'praecox': Praecox means early. A lacecap style cone flowers early in summer. Tall upright shrub to 1.8m (ss) \$13.00
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- 36W *H. paniculata* 'viridus': Smooth, rich dark green leaves with yellow-white, lacecap, cone-shaped flowers, turning antique green in autumn. Erect shrub to 1.8m \$13.00
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- 37W *H. quelpartensis*: A species hydrangea from Quelpart Island in Korea. Grows as a self-clinging climber, very similar to *H. petiolaris*, though with smaller leaves and overall growth. Smothered with white, scented lacecap flowers in early summer. A great plant for those difficult shady sites. Slow to establish. (ss) \$22.00
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- 38W *H. quercifolia* 'Snow Queen': A lovely single-flowered form, the perfect cones of white flowers turn delightful pink with age. The bold oak-shaped leaves turn rich crimson and purple providing a stunning autumn display. Will handle full sun, though prefers semi-shade in hot climates. 1.5m \$16.00
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- 39W *H. quercifolia* 'Pee Wee': A tiny miniature form with smaller sized flowers. The creamy-white cone shaped flowers turn antique pink with age particularly if planted in full sun. The big, bold oak-shaped leaves provide a stunning autumn display turning crimson and purple. \$16.00
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- 40W *H. scandens*: A species form collected from southwestern China. White, lacecap flowers, lightly scented. (ss) \$15.00
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- 41W *H. serrata* 'Shirotae': A beautiful little knee high bush covered in double white starry lacecap flowers turning pink in the late summer. Ideal for pots and tubs or happy in shade. 0.6m \$15.00
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- 42W *H. serrata* 'Maiko': A low growing, free flowering variety from the mountains of Korea. Lacecaps are a light pink or purple. 0.8m \$15.00

TREES AND SHRUBS

- 43W *Alseuosmia macrophylla*: Toropapa A native, shade loving, woody shrub with highly scented pink/red flowers through winter and spring. Red fruit. 2m. \$11.00
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- 44W *Camelia grijsi*: Species camelia from southern China. The scented flowers are single with heart shaped petals. Upright growth habit, forms small tree. 4m (ss) \$18.00
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- 45W *Camelia lutchuensis*: A species camellia from Japan. Tiny single white, scented flowers. Evergreen, upright growing, with small green leaves. Best suited to a semi-shaded or open woodland environment. (ss) \$18.00
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- 46W *Camelia chekiangoleos*: A chinese species closely related to *C. japonica*. The large, showy, single flowers have a distinctly orange-red colour tone with masses of yellow anthers. Flowering late winter – early spring. 2+m (ss) \$22.00
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- 47P *Clethra monostachya*: a synonym of *Clethra delavayi*. A deciduous shrub or small tree with medium green foliage and attractive autumn colour. The scented flowers are white and produced in terminal, hebe-like racemes that are usually solitary (or 3) and 10 – 20 cm long. Flowers attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. Grows best in mildly acidic soils and when provided with part shade. Late Summer flowers. \$12.00
-
- 48W *Clethra alnifolia*: Superbly scented flowers in summer. The flowers are in racemes like a hebe. Dense shrub to 2m \$18.00
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- 49W *Eucryphia lucida* 'Carousel': This plant provides a fantastic summer display, smothered in pretty pink, lightly scented flowers. Forms a narrow, upright, evergreen tree with grey, shiny leaves. 3m (ss) \$15.00
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- 50W *Illicium henryii*: An upright evergreen shrub with glossy, rich green leaves. The starry flowers of deep salmony pink appear in clusters in spring. Happy in sun or shade and is generally easy to grow. 1.5m \$18.00

- 51W *Itea illicifolia*: Hollyleaf sweetspire. Long racemes (up to 30cm) of creamy, sweet smelling flowers. Glossy rich green holly-like stems 2m \$18.00
- 52W *Leucothoe grayana*: The purple tinted, bronze-yellow leaves of this small semi-evergreen shrub provide a stunning autumn display. It has stout green stems which turn a deep polished red in winter. The pale green racemes appear in summer. 1.2m \$14.00
- 53W *Lonicera X purpusii* 'Winter Beauty': Clusters of creamy-white flowers smother this bush through winter providing the most wonderful fragrance. Best planted somewhere you regularly pass to enjoy the scent. It grows as a deciduous, rounded bush, and is easily managed unlike its cousin the Himilayan Honeysuckle (climber) (ss) \$18.00
- 54W *Osmanthus x fortunei*: A dense holly-like shrub with a truly fantastic fragrance from small white flowers. Autumn flowering. 2m (ss) \$18.00
- 55W *Parthenocissus henryana*: Eyecatching hardy climber with bronze Mapel- like leaves with a prominent silver vein down each leaflet. Good autumn colour. Deciduous. (ss) \$13.00
- 56W *Planchonella costata*: Tawapou A Native coastal tree to 15m from northern New Zealand with attractive glossy green foliage. The large, fleshy date-like fruit are a favourite of our native kereru and kaka. Frost tender. \$13.00
- 57W *Podocarpus parlatorei*: A native of South America, related to our totara, but with leaves 5 – 12 cm long. Attractive soft new growth. Medium to large sized tree, responds well to trimming, re-shooting from old wood. (ss) \$18.00
- 58W *Ruellia macrantha*: A wonderful winter flowering shrub; the large bright pink flowers first appear in autumn and continue through until spring. A fast growing perennial with bright green leaves and stout upright stems, Prune hard after flowering. Will grow in sun or shade, frost sensitive, though can be grown in a pot. (ss) 1.5m \$13.00
- 59W *Syzygium maire*: A native tree once common in wetlands and swamps throughout NZ. Evergreen. White pohutukawa-like flowers followed by bright red berried, great for both bees and birds. 10m \$8.00

PERENNIALS

- 60P *Alchemilla mollis*: Every garden benefits from the having the beautiful foliage effect this useful perennial provides. Mounds of velvety soft olive green, scalloped leaves catch and hold droplets of water that resemble mercury as they shimmer in the sun and in summer, sprays of chartreuse flowers sit in a frothy haze above the leaves. Excellent for edging or planted en-masse for groundcover. It is easy care growing in sun or shade and tolerates most soils. Cut back after blooming to tidy clumps for rest of the season and divide clumps in spring or early autumn. \$6.00
- 61P *Astilbe x arendsii* 'Fanal': A compact perennial with glossy, dark reddish-green foliage to 60cm. Short, dense plumes of crimson flowers appear in early summer when colour in the shade garden can be hard to come by. They also make an excellent cut flower if picked when half open. Use them in groups in the woodland border or mass them for ground cover in moist situations. It makes a stunning effect when planted with yellow green leaves such as those of *Hakonechloa macra* 'All Gold' or *Hosta fortunei* 'Gold Standard'. \$6.00
- 62P *Astilbe x arendsii* 'Wiesse Gloria': A medium height (50 - 90cm) Astilbe cultivar with pure mid-green foliage. In summer, very white flower plumes on whitish-green stems rise above the foliage. These plumes are so soft in texture and colour that the effect when planted en masse is like a feathery cloud. This Astilbe will pair with virtually anything in the garden. Will tolerate full sun in cooler summer regions provided it is kept moist. \$6.00
- 63W *Begonia luxurians*: An unusual species begonia from Brazilian rainforests. The handsome foliage is the real feature with this one, with large (up to 40cm across) fan-shaped leaves, slender fingers and coppery undersides. It is a caned- stemmed begonia and can reach heights of 2-3 metres (though can be pruned to a smaller size), creating a palm-like effect. Yellow-white flower clusters appear in spring. Prefers a warm, frost free situation with bright light. Will grow indoors. (ss) \$13.00
- 64W *Eupatorium purpureum* 'Gateway': Joe Pye Weed. A bold, beautiful and easy care perennial. Large mauve-pink flower heads appear in late summer and autumn; and are favoured by monarch butterflies. (ss) \$13.00
- 65P *Helenium bigelovii* 'Walstrand': This perennial is native to California and S Oregon where it grows in moist meadows so it needs to be planted in full sun to light shade and watered regularly. It grows into a rosette of smooth green leaves and in summer a 75cm – 1m tall stem will produce golden daisy- like blossoms that will attract a variety of bees and butterflies. The flowers are pure yellow at first but the centres turn an attractive reddish-brown as they age. One plant can produce as many as 20 flower heads, either one per branch or in branching arrays. \$6.00

- 66P *Omphalodes cappadocica*: We didn't have enough of these in 2014 so we've got a small number of them again this year. A great plant for cool, moist semi-shaded areas. It rapidly forms good tight clumps of bright green, heart shaped leaves and in spring it produces a mass of true blue, forget-me-not flowers in clusters of 15cm -20cm stems. Its foliage is evergreen so it acts as a great ground cover, looks great planted as a drift under trees and it also makes a lovely border plant. \$6.00
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- 67P *Pulmonaria* sp: This is probably *P. longifolia* but we can't give any guarantees. It will however be a great plant either as ground cover between shrubs or for the front of the border in partial shade. The flowers appear in spring and last until early summer, followed by dense clumps of decorative leaves. They tend to be long-lived plants that are easy to propagate once established. \$6.00
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- 68O *Romneya coulteri*: California Tree Poppy. A large perennial Native to California and Mexico so it is surprising that it thrives in coastal Taranaki. It can be difficult to grow but once it finds the right spot in your garden the underground rhizomes ensure it will form a large clump. The grey-green, waxy textured leaves are deeply cut and attractive but it is the flowers that make it such a striking plant. The large solitary flowers have 6 thin crinkly paper-like pure white petals surrounding a cluster of bright yellow stamens in the centre. They can easily be 10cm in diameter. 2m X 1.5m. \$6.00
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- 69P *Rudbeckia hirta*: Another North American native these 'Black-eyed Susans' make a wonderful long summer display especially when block planted in the perennial border as they are at Pukeiti. They form a clumping 70cm tall mound of foliage with a bright display of yellow flowers with dark purple-black centres – from which they get their common name. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Flowering is more profuse and prolonged if dead headed regularly. Great cut flower. 1m \$6.00
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- 70P *Stachys officinalis* 'Rosea Superba': We think this is the correct name but it has been in the perennial border at Pukeiti for so long it's official title has long been lost. Very neat and upright in habit, this pretty plant forms dense, ground hugging mats of attractive scalloped, wrinkled, light green and veined leaves. Spikes of rosy pink flowers are borne on erect stems from early to late summer. Great for the middle, or even the front, of border. 40cm \$6.00

ODDS AND SODS

We also have a few (very few in some cases) of the following plants, from last years plant list, still available.

- 71O *Arisaema candidissimum*: (White-spathed jack in the pulpit) A tuberous perennial to 30cm in height, with leaves composed of three ovate leaflets, appearing after the flowers. White, hooded spathes, striped pale pink, with a greenish tube are 10cm in length and appear in summer. \$6.00
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- 72P *Crinum moorei*: A herbaceous plant belonging to the family Amaryllidaceae, and native to South Africa. The bulbs of *Crinum Moorei* are large, measuring up to 200 mm in diameter. The long, wide green leaves grow in a rosette shape from the top of the neck. The leaves can be up to 1m long and 200 mm wide! In Autumn, the flower stalk grows up 1.2m tall, topped with 5 to 10 large, slightly drooping flowers. The leaves die off after flowering. This *Crinum* does not tolerate direct sun. It will tolerate light frost but should be in a sheltered position to protect the dormant bulbs from harm. The flowers are perfumed, more so in the evening. \$6.00
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- 73P *Speirantha gardenii*: Rhizomatous plant, spreading by stolons. Lily-of-the-valley like evergreen leaves to 15cm. Flowers scented and on stems to 15cm. Grows well in humus rich soil in shade. Frost tolerant. \$6.00

Pukeiti

Autumn trip to the East Coast.

Transport in an air conditioned coach. Stay 3 nights in motel style accommodation in Napier and Gisborne

Day 1

Depart from New Plymouth, Monday, 02 May. Morning tea in Whanganui and then continue via Fielding and Dannevirke to Gwavas Garden where we will have a late lunch and then spend the afternoon being guided round the Homestead and garden. Stay in a Napier motel.



Gwavas garden has the largest privately owned collection of temperate woody plants in Australasia. The homestead was built in 1890 and is still used as a home for the current owner,

Phyllida Gibson and her husband Stuart. Phyllida's father, Michael Hudson has, since 1950 restored, extended and done all the planting, including many of his own plants bred at Gwavas.

Day 2

Drive from Napier to Gisborne detouring to visit Hackfalls Arboretum. We will have lunch at the Arboretum and enjoy a guided walk round the grounds with Diane Playle, the niece of Bob Berry. Stay in Gisborne in a motel.



Hackfalls Arboretum established by Bob Berry and more laterly Lady Anne Palmer, Hackfalls Arboretum is now a charitable trust and has over 3,000 rare trees and shrubs growing across 50 hectares.

Varieties of oaks, alders, cherries, maples and more will provide beautiful autumn colours. Our guide for the day will be Diane Playle, Bob Berry's niece.

Day 3

We will spend most of the day, including lunch, enjoying and exploring Eastwoodhill Arboretum. A jeep tour will be available for the less mobile, whilst those able to walk around will be able to take an extended guided walk with the curator. Drive back to Napier to the same motel as Day 1.



Eastwoodhill is the National Arboretum of NZ and encompasses over 135 hectares planted with a massive range (25,000 species) of exotic and native trees, shrubs and climber plantings. The botanical

collection was planted by Douglas Cook and is regarded as the largest and most comprehensive collection of Northern Hemisphere trees south of the equator.

Day 4

Drive from Napier to New Plymouth via Taupo where we will have a guided tour of the Gardens of Huka Lodge. After lunch we will return to New Plymouth



The natural beauty of the Huka Lodge location has been enhanced by 17 acres of manicured gardens and park-like grounds which feature many fine specimen trees and a magnificent water garden.

Indicative price \$1,000pp twin share. \$240 single supplement. Included in Price is transport, entrance fees, guided walks, 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners and 3 nights accommodation.

If you are interested in joining this trip in New Plymouth or elsewhere on the route, please contact Heather (06) 757 2460 or e.mail: h.robson@xtra.co.nz by Friday, 25 March.