

Garden News

with the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden

September 2021

Around the Garden in winter

Fairy Garden

Winter has provided good opportunities to work on items for the Fairy/Fantasy Village.

For two of the regular scheduled crafting sessions, Friends and members of the public worked indoors with Plant Collection Team Manager Clare Shearman and Lead Educator Marion Saunders, below left on items to refresh the Village in preparation for spring.

With a more-or-less fine day coinciding with one of the workshops, some of these have now made the scene.



The 'Town Hall', above, features some new seats, and an abundant seasonal fruit bowl, while the Cork Fairies' playground, left, has some new installations. More soon!

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Help support your Garden

- Join us as a Friend of the Wellington Botanic Garden
- Become a Garden Guide or Host
- Make a donation to the Friends
- Gift a membership

President's report

Spring is here although heavy rain, severe wind gusts and the current lockdown are putting a dampener on what we can and cannot do. However, as gardeners we know that nature waits for no-one.

The beautiful tulip bulbs ordered from the Friends in the depths of winter are up - poking through our unusually well-watered soil! The supply of these quality bulbs is one of the ways the Friends bring the Garden to your garden.

In addition to organising, ordering and distributing spring bulbs the Friends have a number of other projects that continue to gain momentum. Here is an insight into a few we have on the go that are not covered by other reports.

- The propagation team re-potted the Peperomia cuttings and sowed assorted spring seeds. Watch out for notices about our Friends pop-up shop and see the results of the seed propagations in the beautiful summer beds of the Garden.



- Our brown bag lunch lecture series continues to have a strong following. Friends, Garden staff and guests have been wowed by presentations from Steven Yin (supported by his beautiful bonsai trees) and Luke from Pamela Jane Galleries who enlightened us on Flowers through Art History.



- The line-up for the rest of the year is equally interesting and diverse. Emily Fletcher will show her botanical garden videos in September (Covid willing), October sees Steven back to demonstrate bonsai techniques and Simon Woolf will hold a master class on how to photograph plants and flowers in November. You can find out more information on our website or Facebook page.



Don't miss out on what's happening. The Friends activities are planned for the first Tuesday and Sunday of the month. Mark your calendar and check our website and Facebook for details and updates.

Music at the Begonia is happening! The first performance is at 11.00am on October 3. We are excited to welcome the Capital Harmony Chorus who will entertain us with barbershop style harmonies and a side helping of ukuleles.

The musical events are an ideal opportunity to showcase great Wellington musical talent and the newly updated Begonia foyer sound system. Remember: Friends will enjoy dedicated seating and a koha donation will be taken at the door. All funds from the concerts will grow the balance of the Friends Endowment Fund. The Fund offers the Friends and the general public an ongoing means of showing their mutual support for the Garden.

Our goal is to create a reliable funding stream where we can ensure the ongoing development of the Garden and Garden related initiatives. Depending on balance there are a variety of funding opportunities available. These include university scholarships, research funding (building on the tertiary guided botany walks), and possibly an artist in residence programme. The Friends Endowment Fund is under the management of the Nikau Foundation.

The Foundation model means that every dollar donated to the Fund is invested and is considered a generational investment. If you would like to know more please contact Mazz at mazzscannell@gmail.com

Wishing everyone a safe and productive spring season. I know I will be out in my garden enjoying the spring growth and watching the fruit trees burst into flower.

Mazz Scannell

FoWBG 2021 Annual General Meeting Notice

To be held at the Botanic Garden Treehouse at 11am to 12noon on Saturday 18 September 2021 (unless Covid19 restrictions are still in place). Followed by refreshments.

All Friends are encouraged to attend the AGM and nominate candidates for the election to the Committee. Please note that only current financial members may nominate or vote.

Around the Garden in winter

Fairy Garden continued

Thank you to the Fairy helpers (Garden staff, members and public), who assist the Fairies with home and garden maintenance. If you would like to help in this project or others email wbgfriends@gmail.com



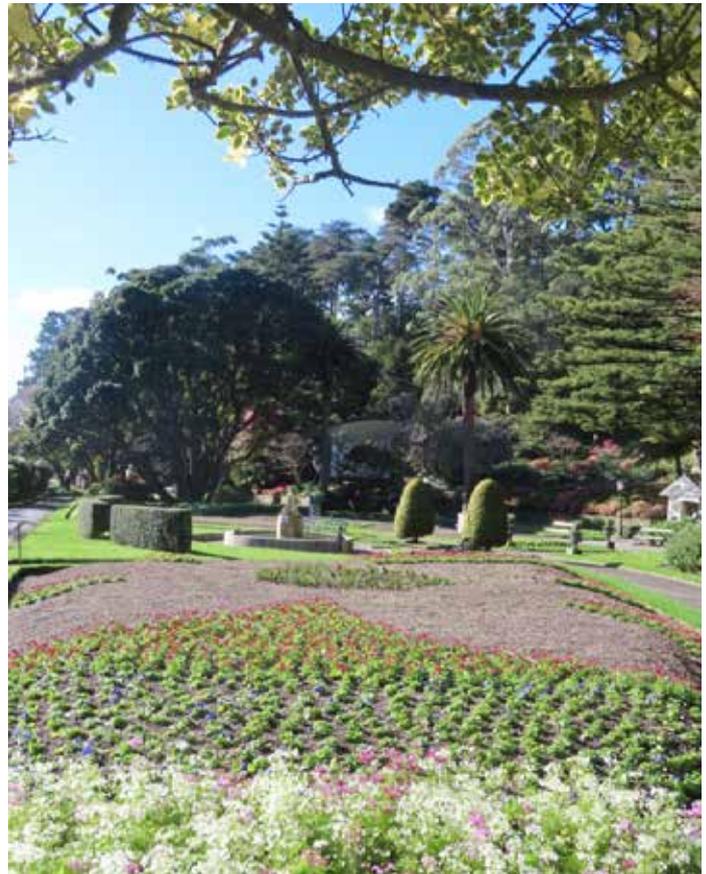
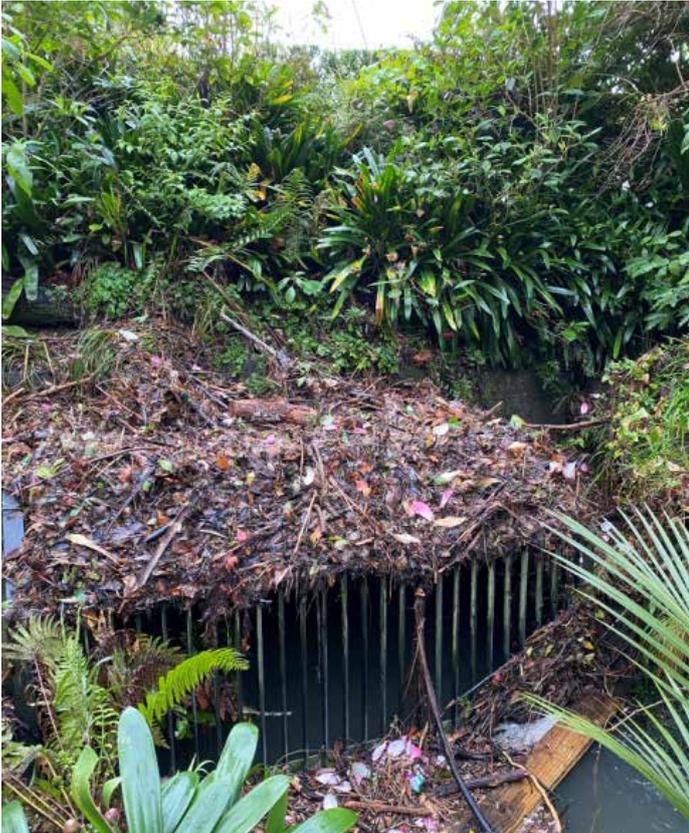
A lovely addition by the public spotted during our last working bee.



Around the Garden in winter

Fungi and the elements

Elsewhere in the Garden after a relatively drab and dry summer and autumn, rainfall has caught up with annual averages with deluges in August. From about two-thirds average annual rainfall figures in the first half of the year, rainfall to mid-August now surpasses the year-to-date average.



Evidence of impact on the Garden can be seen: a flush of red fungi under the golden elm on the Puriri Lawn (watch for Reg Harris' Insights on fungi), and a huge pile of debris caught by the trash rake across the stream below the duckpond.



The moister conditions bring the promise of the annual spring glories we have come to love in this magnificent civic asset. Other Garden users share our appreciation.

Thanks to the dedicated staff.

four-letter words on the front and back, and when read in sequence from north to south, or south to north, hint at the saying, 'actions speak louder than words'.



Browne was the first director of Auckland artist-run gallery space Artspace, opened in reaction to the direction Auckland Art Gallery was then taking with its move towards high-end imported historical shows of artists like Claude Monet.



Mary-Louise has also worked a great deal in neon. She believes neon conflates the materiality of phosphorus tubing with the connotations of the words depicted and reflexively incorporates the viewer into the work who is so visually attuned that they can read this work in both directions without being aware of its mechanisms.

The use of neon brings a new dimension to her work with the direct and playful conflation of fine and commercial art practice. The messages here, however, are not those of commercial signs but are open-ended texts: two are drawn from popular culture. 'Please please me', for example, references The Beatles hit single and title track of their first album. Whereas "Don't Let It Get You" references the title of a 1966 New Zealand film, a musical directed by John O'Shea, starring Howard Morrison, and with Kiri te Kanawa in a small role. This sign now stands in the National Library (lower ground floor), and in 2020 formed a backdrop as a busy Dr Ashley Bloomfield unknowingly made Mary-Louise's work even more famous!



Her neon constructs often taunt the



imagination, and challenge our way of thinking. Mark Emery, DomPost art critic wrote of her neon works "It's a material whose use for text in art is well worn, and it's at its most effective here for me when the words speak strongly to its gaseous stillness and its design."



Fergus McLean

2022 Brown bag lunch lectures - Sculptures

March 1 - Speaker will be Sue Elliott from the Sculpture Trust. She will talk about the planning and work before a sculpture is erected.

April 6 - Well known Wellington sculptor Jonathan Campbell will talk about how he plans a sculpture.

Upcoming Projects and Events



MUSIC AT THE BEGONIA



Brown Bag Lecture series

At The Treehouse Visitor Centre,
Wellington Botanic Garden

Tuesday October 5, 12pm

The Amazing Art of Bonsai – techniques
and shaping

Tuesday November 2, 12pm

Photographing plants with Simon Woolf

Guided Walks

Cost: \$5 (cash only, please)

Sunday 19 September, 11 am

Bee awareness month walk – The secret life
of bees. Meet at the Herb Garden Lookout for this
easy 90-minute walk.

Monday 27 September, 11 am

Spring Festival walk – The joys of spring

Meet at the Founders' Entrance, Glenmore Street
for this easy 75-minute walk.

Music in the Begonia House foyer

First Sunday of the month at 11am

October 3, 2021

Capital Harmony Chorus

November 7, 2021

Teenage Voices singing songs botanical and wild

December 5, 2021

Faultline Chorus

March 6, 2022

Ooh Lala Music – special 2pm performance

Enjoy the performances like a pro.

- Food is not allowed in the Begonia House – if you are feeling peckish Picnic Café is only a few steps away.
- Seating is restricted to Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden – feel free to bring your own chair to enjoy the hour-long concert or join the Friends – application forms will be available on the day.
- Entrance by Koha – funds raised will go towards building the Friends Endowment Fund.

For more information on these and other upcoming walks and events look out for our “What’s On” and “Music at the Begonia” flyers or visit our Facebook and website pages.

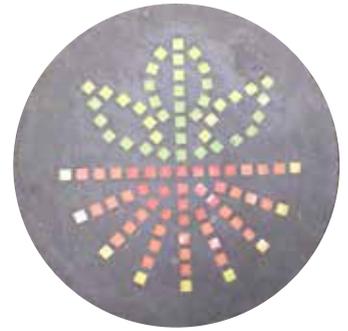
Fungi at Large

A project named ‘Fungi at Large’ is underway. This is a sort of follow-on from ‘Botanical Insights’ and, before the end of calendar 2021, Friends will have received mailouts in three parts (the first was sent out to everyone this month, August). Sometime over the summer months, a Tree House display and associated public talks will be held.

Membership report

A big thank you to all members who renewed their membership so promptly. If you haven't renewed there is still time to do so – payment for your membership can be made to **02 0500 0080203 00**. Please enter 'Sub' and your name in the 'Particulars' field. If you do not have access to internet banking we can sort out a cash arrangement, or another option is a cash payment at the Treehouse.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Path tiles designed and made by Con Kiernan.

Call for newsletter content

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome

Material for the December 2021 Newsletter issue should be submitted by 3pm Friday 19 November 2021 to the Editor at mmainwaring@xtra.co.nz

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Bellis perennis, a pretty annual plant that comes in colours of - white, pink and burgundy. Can be seen at the Founders' Entrance, Glenmore Street

