

A New Zealand Garden in Harrogate

1953/2010



Forest Bush at Otari Wilton's Bush Reserve, Wellington, New Zealand

Haere Mai - Welcome!

The City of Wellington, New Zealand and Harrogate Borough Council have a sister city relationship, established in the 1950s, to honour 23 New Zealand airmen stationed in North Yorkshire, who lost their lives in World War II and who are buried in the town's Stonefall Cemetery. There were exchanges of native plants between Harrogate and Wellington in 1993. The area in Valley Gardens was designated The New Zealand Garden and laid out with the new plant material which had arrived all the way from 'The Land of the Long White Cloud' on the other side of the world.

In 2009 the Borough Council received a bequest for the Gardens from the late Harrogate-born Kenneth Broadwith (1938 - 2009). This has been used to clear the site of most of the accumulated non New Zealand plant material and to replant with UK sourced New Zealand native plants. A number of mature specimens from the 1950s planting remain.

Pride of place in the restored Gardens goes to an original Maori pou whenua kindly given by the City of Wellington and its iwi partner Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, representing the interests of Te Atiawa, Ngati Tama, Ngati Ruanui and Taranaki.

Three chainsaw sculptures adjacent to the garden were carved by 'Chainsaw Mick' from three tree stumps which remained after the trees were felled to let in more light.

OUR GUESTS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Councillor Ray Ahipene-Mercer, City of Wellington
Kamatua Samuel Poutu Jackson, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust
Mrs June Te Raumanga Jackson, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

PROGRAMME FOR THE REDEDICATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND GARDEN, VALLEY GARDENS

THURSDAY 12 AUGUST 2010

- 4.00 pm Music to welcome guests performed by Members of the White Rose Band.
- 4.30 pm Introduction by Councillor Caroline Bayliss, Member of Harrogate Borough Council and Harrogate in Bloom.
- 4.35 pm Harrogate's SPARX will sing God Save the Queen and New Zealand's Aoetearoa.
- 4.40 pm The Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate (Councillor Bill Hoult) will offer a warm welcome to the town's New Zealand guests –

Councillor Ray Ahipene-Mercer, Kamatua(Elder) Samuel Poutu Jackson and Mrs June Te Raumanga Jackson from Wellington City together with members of the Golden Oldies World Cricket Festival (Harrogate 8-15 August 2010).
- 4.45 pm Councillor Ray Ahipene-Mercer will respond on behalf of Wellington City Council, Harrogate's sister-city.
- 4.50 pm Kamatua Jackson will perform a traditional Maori blessing on the historic pou whenua which has been generously gifted by Wellington City Council and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and safely delivered through sponsorship by Air New Zealand.
- 4.55 pm Councillor Bayliss to close the ceremony and invite official guests to join the Mayor of the Borough in the Sun Pavilion for a civic reception.

The Site

The garden occupies a south east facing corner backing onto Cornwall Road above the Sun Pavilion at the highest point in Harrogate's Valley Gardens. It is divided into six sections shown on this plan.



Harmonious Collections

The climate of New Zealand's South Island is similar to that of Britain. Separated by the hot tropics which encircle the globe, plants in the southern hemisphere have evolved differently over time from those in the northern hemisphere. New Zealand was once connected to Antarctica, Australia and South America as a mega-continent known as Gondwanaland. The continents have separated by tectonic shift but some floral relationships with New Zealand's other southern hemisphere cousins still remain.

Earlier settlers in New Zealand were the Maori, who arrived in big canoes from the Pacific. They called the country Aotearoa which translates as 'The Land of the Long White Cloud'. They gave names to many of the native plants which they found there and are believed to have brought some of their own with them.

The South Island consists of a long maritime mountain range down the west side, with rolling hills and low flat plains towards the east. Floral habitats vary from cold craggy places and alpine meadows high on the mountains down to, what was before the settlers came, densely forested temperate lowland native bush. Vast areas of mountain valleys are covered with native beech woods. Stream-side plants thrive beside creeks and wide river beds which carry the high rainfall in the mountains down to the sea.

The first Europeans to investigate the flora of New Zealand were Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander who were on the then Lieutenant James Cook's first voyage of exploration in 1769. They recorded 181 New Zealand plants. Since then hundreds more have been found and recorded by many more plant hunters.

This garden in Harrogate is laid out as five 'harmonious collections' of mainly native South Island flora. Plants have been grouped as they are found in nature so that the main plants in each group are seen with their familiar companions in the wild. These groups represent forest bush margin, beech woodland margin, swamp and creek fringe, sub alpine tussock, alpine herb fields and behind everything a shelter strip to protect the collections from our harsh winter winds. Descriptions of the primary planting in each section of the garden follow in this booklet. It is hoped to adjust and add more New Zealand plants to the collections in future years.

Besides being a collection of plants of interest to some, the garden is now a popular Valley Gardens sun trap to be enjoyed by all.



Shelter Strip

Some plants in this garden can be damaged by frost. Overhead protection is provided by three mature evergreen griselinia trees and a mature pittosporum tree which have all survived from the 1950s planting. To increase protection from the cold north winds of winter, a shelter strip of hardy evergreen olearia and pittosporum bushes has been planted along the fence adjacent to Cornwall Road. Some evergreen trees of non New Zealand origin have been retained for shelter. These are hollies, an Irish yew and a specimen fragrant boxleaf azara tree, a native of Chile in South America. Additional frost protection will be provided in winter. Nurturing some of our plants through a severe winter is going to be a challenge.

Griselinia littoralis (CORNACEAE)

Kapuka also known as broadleaf is found in forests from sea level to 900 m throughout most of NZ. These evergreen trees are survivors of the 1950s planting.

Olearia macrodonta 'Major' (ASTERACEAE)

With distinctive leaves it is known commonly as the New Zealand holly. It is a tree daisy found in mountain areas from East Cape southwards.

Olearia cheesemanii (ASTERACEAE)

Found on forest margins and along stream-sides from Auckland southwards. It is a tree daisy named after the botanist and gold Linnean medalist T. F. Cheeseman.

Pittosporum crassifolium 'Variegatum' (PITTOSPORACEAE)

The attractive common variegated form of a species of pittosporum in domestic gardens which has been hybridized from the native plant, known as the turpentine tree, which grows naturally along most of North Island's east coast.

Pittosporum tenuifolium (PITTOSPORACEAE)

We have one mature Kohuhu tree from the 1950s planting. With fragrant flowers, this is found throughout NZ except on South Island's west coast.



Forest Bush Margin

Much of the east side of South Island of New Zealand before clearance for farming by pioneers, was densely forested with native bush including the primary trees of rimu, totara and toatoa. Reserves of native bush still exist and we emulate a typical margin by planting a collection of rimu, cordyline, lancewood, hoheria, pittosporum, ferns and tree ferns.

Blechnum fluviatile (POLYPODIACEAE)

Kiwakiwa, the rosette fern which is common in damp shady areas of forest throughout NZ.

Blechnum novae zelandiae (POLYPODIACEAE)

Kiokio is common throughout NZ on roadside banks and in forest gullies as well as in scrub and swamp.

Cordyline australis (ASPHODELACEAE)

Ti kouka or cabbage tree found throughout NZ in a variety of habitats. Its name derives from the taste to pioneers of the fresh new shoots.

Cyathea dealbata (CYATHEACEAE)

Ponga silver tree fern grows in forests throughout New Zealand. A national emblem of the country.

Dacrydium cupressinum (PODOCARPACEAE)

Rimu, a distinctive slow growing forest canopy tree found throughout NZ. Also known as the red pine, it can grow to a height of 40 metres.

Dicksonia fibrosa (CYATHACEAE)

Wheki-ponga tree fern which occurs naturally in forests from Tauranga southward. Slow growing.

Dicksonia squarrosa (CYATHACEAE)

Wheki tree fern found in forests throughout New Zealand.

Hebe salicifolia (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Koromiko or willow hebe, found throughout the South Island. Probably first found by Johann or George Forster in 1773 in Dusky Sound with Captain Cook's second voyage.

Hoheria sextylosa (MALVACEAE)

Houhere - Lacebark or ribbonwood found in forests and forest margins from Whangarei to Nelson.

Pittosporum tenuifolium 'French Lace' (PITTOSPORACEAE)

A cultivar of Kohuhu, *P. tenuifolium*.

Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Golf Ball' (PITTOSPORACEAE)

A cultivar of Kohuhu, *P. tenuifolium*.

Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Tandarra Gold' (PITTOSPORACEAE)

A cultivar of Kohuhu, *P. tenuifolium*.

Pseudopanax crassifolius (ARALIACEAE)

Horoeka or lancewood is a dimorphic tree found in lowland forests and scrub throughout NZ.



Beech Woodland Margin

Extensive areas of the lower mountain sides to the west of the South Island are covered with beech woodland. The southern beech is related to our own beech but with smaller leaves. Among the southern beech trees growing in this garden you will see one of the biggest tree fuchsia species in the world, a sophora tree whose yellow flowers are the national flower of New Zealand, and the fascinating hen and chicken fern.

Asplenium bulbiferum (ASPLENIACEAE)

The hen & chicken fern, which propagates itself by dropping baby fern plants from its fronds, is common in woodland and forests throughout NZ.

Corokia x virgata (CORNACEAE)

Korokio. A hybrid between *C. buddleioides* and *C. cotoneaster*.

Fuchsia excorticata (ONAGRACEAE)

Kotukutuku is the largest tree fuchsia in the world. Can reach 12 metres in the wild. Found throughout NZ from sea level to 1000 m. in second growth areas and along stream banks.

Hebe elliptica (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Kokomuka. Probably first found by Johann or George Forster (father and son) in 1773 in Dusky Sound with Captain Cook's

second voyage. This is one of only three hebes which occur in the wild outside New Zealand. It can be found in southern South America and the Falkland Islands.

Libertia grandiflora (IRIDACEAE)

It is found in lowland and hill forests in south of North Island and north of South Island.

Nothofagus fusca (FAGACEAE)

Tawhairaunui or red beech found in New Zealand forests from sea level up to 1050 m. Prefers a cooler climate.

Leptospermum scoparium (MYRTACEAE)

Known by the Maori as Manuka, the source of nectar for Manuka honey. This is a member of the myrtle family also found in Australia, European pioneers called it the tea tree and extracted its oil for medicinal purposes. It is found throughout NZ in a variety of situations.

Sophora tetaptera (FABACEAE)

Found naturally in the North Island along river banks and woodland margins.



Swamp and Creek Fringe

In swampy areas and on the banks of rivers and creeks which flow from the mountains down to the sea are found phormium, prostrate coprosma, creeping fuchsia and the plumed toetoe. We have planted hybridized phormiums here to display a range of colours. The Maori traditionally use the fibres of phormium leaves, also called New Zealand flax, to make clothing, baskets, mats and fishing nets.

Coprosma acerosa 'Hawera' (RUBIACEAE)

Sand coprosma ground-cover that is found naturally near the coast throughout NZ. Withstands foot traffic.

Cortaderia richardii (GRAMINEAE)

South Island toetoe plumed grass is confined to South Island where it grows in a range of habitats such as stream-sides, scrub and sand dunes.

Fuchsia procumbens (ONAGRACEAE)

Creeping fuchsia found rather rarely in coastal areas from North Cape to Coromandel in North Island.

Hebe rakiensis (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Generally found on stream sides and rocky outcrops. Discovered by Joseph Battie Armstrong in 1868 in the valley of the Rahaia River.

Phormium cookianum syn colensoi 'Variegatum'(AGAVACEAE)
Wharaiki or mountain flax has nectar which appeals to tui and bellbirds in NZ. Found throughout NZ from coastal swamps to low montane areas. Named after William Colenso (1811-1899)

Phormium tenax (AGAVACEAE)

Our mature specimen of harakeke is from the 1950s planting. The plant is found throughout NZ from coastal swamps to low montane areas. In 1803 naturalist Jacques Labillardière named it Phormium, meaning "basket" or "wickerwork", and tenax meaning "tenacity" or "holding fast".

Sophora prostrata 'Little Baby' (PAPILIONACEAE)

The divaricating prostrate kowhai is found in lowland places in the South Island.



Sub-Alpine Tussock

In this more open area of the garden we have a frost tolerant mixture of sedge, grass, tussock and fescue, with coprosma, spaniard, astelia and a collection of flowering hebes. These plants naturally grow on the higher plateaux of New Zealand, mainly above the tree line in both the North and South Islands. To add interest to our display, some of the hebes are cultivated hybrids with coloured flowers.

Acaena inermis (ROSACEAE)

Blue bidibidi, a creeping groundcover plant bearing burrs.

Aciphylla aurea (UMBELLIFERAE)

Golden spaniard found in South Island alpine regions.

Astelia chathamica 'Silver Spear' (LILIACEAE)

Native of the Chatham Islands.

Astelia nervosa 'Westland' (LILIACEAE)

Found in tussock grassland and herb-field from central North Island southward.

Brachyglottis bidwilli (ASTERACEAE)

This thick leaved shrub groundsel grows in subalpine scrub and fellfields in South Island. Named after J. C. Bidwill (1815-1853).

Carex comans 'Comans Red' (CYPERACEAE)

Red sedge thriving in damp pasture and tussockland throughout most of NZ.

Carex testacea (CYPERACEAE)

This orange NZ sedge is found in forest, tussockland and sand dunes throughout NZ.

Chionochloa rubra (GRAMINEAE)

Red tussock found throughout New Zealand.

Corokia cotoneaster (CORNACEAE)

Our korokia or wire netting plant is a survivor of the 1950s planting. In the wild this divaricating shrub is found in dry and stony places throughout New Zealand.

Coprosma acerosa 'Hawera' (RUBIACEAE)

Sand coprosma ground-cover that is found naturally near the coast throughout NZ. Withstands foot traffic.

Coprosma 'Dark Cloud' (RUBIACEAE)

This prostrate coprosma is a cultivar.

Hebe albicans (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Mount Arthur Hebe found in subalpine scrub and rocky places. First collected either on Mt Cobb or Mount Arthur in early 20th century.

Hebe 'Lavender Spray' *syn Hartii* (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Prostrate hebe cultivar probably named after H. Hart of Dunedin, who was a keen cultivator and collector of plants.



Podocarpus nivalis (PODOCARPACEAE)

Alpine or mountain totara is found in alpine and subalpine regions.

Alpine Herb Fields

This section of the garden contains a collection of alpine totara, hardy hebes, olearias, geraniums and other plants which grow in cold craggy places above the glaciers high up in the often snow-covered mountains of New Zealand's South Island.

Hebe ochracea 'James Sterling' (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

This ochreous whipcord hebe usually occurs in damp snow tussock herb-field and fell-field in low-alpine regions in the mountains at 1200-1700 m.

Hebe pinguifolia 'Pagei' (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Dish leafed hebe - a very hardy prostrate shrub found in montane areas of the eastern South Island. Named in 1922 after Edward Page, sub-foreman in Dunedin Botanic Garden.

Olearia nummarifolia (ASTERACEAE)

Hard leaved tree daisy subalpine shrub found in both North and South islands.

Pimelea prostrata (THYMELAEACEAE)

Pinatoro / wharengarara New Zealand daphne with sweet scented flowers. Found up to 1600 m throughout NZ

Maori Carving

Carving has always been an important aspect of Maori culture. It was used as an aid to storytelling and passing down history and tradition from generation to generation. We have been privileged to receive a Maori *pou whenua* from the City of Wellington and its iwi partner Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust. This takes pride of place at the centre of the garden.

Tree Sculptures

Alongside the garden are three sculptures by chainsaw artist Mick Burns of a kiwi, a marlin and a carved bench. The former trees were overgrown conifers which were removed as they cast shade over the garden.



Thanks to:

Kenneth Broadwith (1938 - 2009)
City of Wellington
Air New Zealand
Golder Associates (Landscape architects)
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Harrogate in Bloom
Friends of Valley Gardens
Valley Gardens and Council Nurseries permanent staff
all others whose help in this restoration was invaluable.



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Harrogate in Bloom and Friends of Valley Gardens
to mark the blessing of the garden
12 August 2010