



Pukeiti NEWSLETTER

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.

www.pukeiti.org.nz

New plans for Pukeiti

It is now nine years since the partnership agreement between the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and the Taranaki Regional Council was signed and the running and ownership of the property was passed to the Regional Council. The original objectives of the Trust, accepted in full by the TRC, provide the basis and guiding principles for the further development of Pukeiti.

The TRC recognized that as a public garden, owned by all the ratepayers of Taranaki, no charge for entry would be levied. The developments, while not losing the focus on the gardens but instead enhancing them, have been aimed at increasing visitor numbers by introducing more family orientated activities, education programmes for schools and improving interpretation and public facilities like the Rainforest Café. In the last year of the Trust's management when a \$10 charge was levied for entry, Pukeiti attracted 10,000 visitors. Last year - now that the garden is free to enter - 86,000 visitors enjoyed this unique place. Development will continue and numbers will further increase.

For the next few years a number of initiatives are planned. A hiking and biking trail through Pukeiti, and then around the Kaitake Ranges to Oakura, is planned to be completed by 2022. Preceding this, next year a walking track along the old tramline on which logs were transported to the mill in the early 1900s will be further developed, and in 2021 a suspension bridge, the longest in New Zealand, will give outstanding views of the rainforest canopy and be an added attraction in itself. Also a stylishly designed family hut which will sleep 12 hikers is being constructed along the walkway on Pukeiti Hill.



Rhododendron goodenoughii - Named after the Island in New Guinea from which it was collected.



Rhododendron 'Chrysomanicum' - A hybrid of *R. chrysodoron* and *R. burmanicum* raised in Bodnant, Wales. Awarded an A.M in 1947



R. cubittii now included in the Cubittii group within the species *Rhododendron veitchianum*

The three photos are all of August flowering rhododendrons

Despite all this development the original purpose of Pukeiti, to develop a garden to display rhododendrons in a rainforest setting, incorporating an over-arching conservation ethic, has not been forgotten. The TRC has an extensive predator conservation programme which will boost native flora and fauna, and the ex-situ rhododendron project headed by the Trust will assist in the world-wide conservation of rhododendron species. The more practical steps in this project, the propagation and distribution of selected rhododendrons, would not be possible without the TRC's full support, which has been willingly given. The Trust provides advice and guidance through the Garden Forum, working closely with the staff on these matters. The TRC's provision of the new covered walk, the Vireya House, and the new garden features also supports the integrity of the rhododendron collection and improves its display.

The work at Pukeiti is led by Andrew Brooker in his new role of Plant Collections and Project Officer. The Trust provides a portion of his salary, reinforcing the partnership arrangements.

The TRC's predator control activities are already showing results with increased birdlife at Pukeiti and in the wider region.

Pukeiti continues on its journey to be a worldclass attraction and a place of international significance in conservation. It will continue to need your support.

Lynn Publitz

From the Members' Committee

Two events and one working bee have been held since our last newsletter.

The Mid-winter Lunch was again well supported by members who gathered for mulled wine and punch before sitting down to a three course buffet meal prepared and served by Karen and Graham Chard from the Rainforest Café. Everyone enjoyed being back in The Lodge and the Douglas Cook Room is proving an ideal venue for our get togethers.

Thanks to the Board for providing the mulled wine and to Rene who again did all the organising.

The Soup and Roll day dawned fine but the forecast was dire. About 40 members, however, made the decision that the certainty of a lunch of tasty soups made by Bev and George outweighed the probability of being drenched by rain, so packed their wet weather gear and came up to enjoy a walk with Graham Smith around the large-leaf rhododendrons, followed by a convivial lunch in the Douglas Cook Room. The large-leaf rhodos are a bit late this year and having flowered prolifically last year are taking a bit of a rest this year, but they are still well worth a trip to Pukeiti to view.

Thanks to Bev & George for the lovely selection of soups; to Graham for guiding the walk and to Craig for taking the buggy around.

Perennial Propagation day took place at the end of July. The two Lucys, (British girls who are finishing a year long sabbatical from the Eden Garden in Cornwall with a stint at Pukeiti) were clearing out the perennials from around the Founders' Garden. We decided to take advantage of this work and pot up the more desirable of these plants for our 2020 Members' Plant List. Two members and Wendy spent the morning splitting and potting up eight different perennials and two other members have now taken these plants home to grow on for next year.

GARDEN VISITS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22

This year we are visiting gardens in central and south Taranaki.

Programme

9:00am – Meet at Tupare car park to organise car pooling.

10:00am – Gather at Cairnhill Garden, 1054 SH43, Stratford. Turn inland from Stratford on SH43 (also called Regan Street) heading towards Taumarunui. June and Colin Lees garden is about 15 minutes down this highway.

This is a tranquil, park-like garden all on one level. Over the past 50 years the garden has steadily expanded around the house. Over 100 varieties of rhododendrons grow happily under deciduous trees and amongst camellias, clematis, roses and lots of different hostas.

11:30am -King Edward Park, Waihi Road, Hawera.
(Park by the swimming pool)

STDC parks curator, David Bruce, will guide us on a tour of this public garden which gained its fifth star from the NZ Gardens' Trust recently.

1:00pm - Puketarata Garden, 14 Ngawhini Road, Hawera. We will have our lunch here before viewing the garden.

Jennifer Horner is the granddaughter of Pukeiti's founding chairman, Griff Williams. Starting in 1978, she and her husband Ken have created just under 1 hectare of garden rooms nestled in a hillside contour. The garden is planted with both natives and exotics and includes formal plantings, vege gardens, stunning views and a bush gully that has a QEII covenant over it.

3:00pm – Openlands, 1064 Auroa Road, Manaia.

We will finish the day at Marie Mill's wonderful country garden. Here, broad sweeping lawns are edged by perennial borders filled with rhododendrons, camellias and large trees. The garden is full of surprises such as a shade house, native dell and even an old Methodist church now used as a wedding venue.

At the conclusion of the garden tour we will settle down for fellowship and conviviality and enjoy Marie's hospitality.

P.S. Don't forget to bring your picnic lunch including drink, and the usual personal items such as sunscreen and Sunhat, rain jacket and umbrella (it is Taranaki after all!) and then drinks and nibbles to finish the day. Please bring a glass of mug and maybe a rug or chair to sit on.

SPRING MEMBERS' DAY AND AGM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

BOARD ELECTIONS 2019

Nominations closed at the end of August. New members will be decided at the AGM.

Board members Lynn Bublitz and Neville Stewart retire by rotation this year. Neville has decided not to stand for re-election. We are very grateful for his contribution and service to the Board.

NOTICE OF MOTION TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AGM

'That membership subs be increased to \$40 per annum'.

10:00am – Tea and coffee available in The Lodge.

10:30am - Guided Walks - Graham and Andrew will take walks around the garden.

12:00am – Members are invited to a pot luck lunch in the Douglas Cook room. Please bring finger food for a shared meal. Tea and coffee will be provided.

1:30pm – Annual General Meeting in the Rata Room, Rainforest Pavilion.

2:15pm – At the conclusion of the AGM there will be a presentation by Andrew outlining his work with the Rhododendron Conservation Project.

TARANAKI GARDEN FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 01-10

Volunteers are needed for assisting Pukeiti staff with hosting duties at The Lodge and for membership promotion.

END OF YEAR BBQ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc. invites you to our Christmas Barbeque at 12:00 noon at The Lodge. The Trust will be providing the BBQ, meat and buns but please bring a salad or a small plate of finger food for dessert to share with others.

RSVP by Thursday December 12 to Diane of (06) 7522800 or email jordy@primowireless.co.nz

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

If this has been over-looked it would be appreciated if prompt payment could be arranged. We delete from the contact list the names of members whose subscriptions are not paid, along with those of Members in Perpetuity who are no longer with us.

DISCOUNTS AT RAINFOREST CAFÉ AND SHOP

A reminder that Karen and Graham have offered members a 10% discount on café purchases and the TRC will match this on anything purchased from the shop, on presentation of a valid membership card. The café is currently open 10am – 4pm Friday, Saturday & Sunday but from 01 October it will be starting its summer hours and be open every day except Christmas Day from 10am – 4pm.

Gift Membership Cards

Buy someone you love the gift of a year's membership to the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust.

Gift membership also includes a free guided tour of the garden.

Contact the secretary at pukeiti@pukeiti.com for more details.



Lucie Olddale (seated) & Lucy Wenger in the Vireya House

Lucy and I, also known as 'The Lucys' have been working and living at Pukeiti for the last 2 months. We have been in New Zealand since November 2018 on sabbatical from our roles as horticulturalists in the Rainforest Biome of the Eden Project, UK. During our time in New Zealand we have worked in several different gardens and traveled the country visiting as many places as possible to learn about the plants of New Zealand, how gardens are managed here and some of the amazing conservation work happening within the country.

Our time at Pukeiti has been fantastic! It is very exciting to be here with all the project developments at Pukeiti and the surrounding rainforest. We have been working on maintaining the stunning new covered walkway with its sub-tropical foliage beautifully highlighting the vireya collection, overhauling the beds in the Founder's Lawn and working with the team to bring inspiration and fresh ideas to planning and designing the new beds around The Lodge.

We have also been able to visit and work in Hollard Gardens and Tupare. Both locations are so unique and it was great to learn about food production in the productive display at Hollards and the history of the collection and house at

Tupare. We were also lucky enough to be able to help the Head Gardener Mitch with teaching about his Garden Design workshop at Tupare which was a really enjoyable experience for us.

We have genuinely loved working at Pukeiti. The combination of rhodos and native bush is beautiful and so complementary. We have also had a great time learning about some of the hidden gems in the collection such as the native and miniscule *Corybas* orchid flowers and the shade loving mountain foxglove, *Ourisia macrophylla*. We have particularly enjoyed seeing the large-leaf rhodos and vireya collection come into flower with such incredible displays! When we first arrived, *Rhododendron* 'Pukeiti' was just bursting into flower with buds bigger than my fist and the white sweet scented trumpet shaped flowers of *R. goodenoughii* was in full bloom in the Vireya Walkway.

It has been very inspiring to work with such enthusiastic and passionate professionals who love the collections they manage. Everyone has been so welcoming and made our time here really special. Pukeiti and Taranaki has been a real highlight of our time in New Zealand and we will definitely stay in touch with Pukeiti when we return to the UK, keeping this international connection going.

Lucie Olddale & Lucy Wenger

**Please mark
these dates on
your calendar**

Members' Activities

2019

Volunteering in the Garden

On any Wednesday that suits, meet up with the regular Wednesday volunteers outside the staff quarters at 9:00 to help with the garden maintenance.
Any help is very welcome.

Members' Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 9:30am at The Lodge



**Bookings
for The Lodge facilities
and Studio can be made
on the TRC website**

[www.trc.govt.nz/gardens/venue-hire-and-tours/
pukeiti-studio-accommodation/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/gardens/venue-hire-and-tours/pukeiti-studio-accommodation/)



Pukeiti

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.



TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

Postal address: PO Box 1066
New Plymouth 4340

Location: 2290 Carrington Rd. RD4

Secretary
Anne Howard Phone 021 0831 5444
pukeiti@pukeiti.com

Chairperson
Gordon Bailey gordon.bailey@codc.govt.nz

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

ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Members' Garden Visits

A tour of a selection of South Taranaki 4 & 5 Star gardens has been organised for members.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Spring Members' Day & AGM

Pukeiti, The Lodge and Rata Room
See details page 2

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 29 –
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 01**

NZRA Rhododendron Conference, Rotorua

Book online at www.rhododendron.org.nz

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 01 –
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

2019 Taranaki Garden Festival

Volunteers needed for hosting at The Lodge.

Board Meetings

Saturday October 12 – 9:00am, Board Room, The Lodge

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

End of Year BBQ

Please book with Diane (06) 7522800; 0211293547 or jordy@primowireless.co.nz by Thursday, December 12

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		

Pukeiti Tour of English Gardens

May 2020



Commencing late April through to late May this special tour is designed to explore the very finest of Southern England including special gardens in North Wales, East Anglia, the Cotswolds, South West and South East, finishing up with the Chelsea Flower Show in London. As an appetiser two nights will be spent in Singapore visiting the spectacular Bay Gardens and the Botanic and Orchid Gardens in this iconic city, on the way over.

The itinerary includes:

- Hyde Hall, Beth Chatto Gardens, Raveningham Hall and East Ruston Old Vicarage in East Anglia.
- Chatsworth, Bodnant, Maenan Hall and Plas Brondanw in Central England and North Wales.
- Hidcote Manor, Kiftsgate Court, Hampton Court Castle, Stockton Bury, Highgrove Royal Estate, Miserden Park, The Laskett and Old Rectory Thrupton in the Cotswolds and Gloucestershire.
- Hestercombe, Knightshayes Court, Rosemoor, Castle Hill, Killerton, The Garden House and Wildside Garden in Devon.
- Eden Garden, Tregrehan, Caerhays Castle, Trewithen in Cornwall, with an option to Scilly Isles or St Michaels Mount.
- Abbotsbury, Exbury, Hillier Arboretum along the South Coast.
- Leonardslee, Nymans, Sissinghurst, Great Dixter, Wakehurst Place and Borde Hill in South East.
- Great Comp, Wisley, Kew and Savill Gardens near London, with Chelsea Flower Show to finish.

Tour Arrangements

The UK tour includes share twin/double accommodation with dinner, bed and breakfast, garden entries, coach travel. Early visit to Sissinghurst, evening visit with tour and dinner at Wisley, guided tours to Hestercombe, Caerhays, Rosemoor and Kew. Chelsea show ticket. Brightwater Tour Manager.

Also included is Auckland-Singapore-London economy return airfares, transfer and entrance fee to Bay Gardens and airport transfer to and from the city, share twin/double accommodation.

Tour cost based on 25 persons is **NZ\$11,680** based on exchange rate as of 12th August 2019.

Single room supplement NZ\$2150 in the UK.

The final cost will be determined by participant numbers, exchange rates nearer the departure dates and any reasonable increases in tariffs that might be applied by contractors.

Actual dates will be confirmed when bookings are made with the airlines and flight times determined, but would be 25 or 26 nights.

Expressions of interest

and further details can be obtained from the Pukeiti Secretary, PO Box 1066, New Plymouth, 4340 or email pukeiti@pukeiti.com

Enjoy the English Gardens in the Spring

Special Offer

Special discounted cost to members of \$45.00 including p&p within NZ.

For the cost of postage outside NZ please contact the Secretary.

Big-leaf Rhododendrons

*Great
Gift
Idea*

*by Glyn Church & Graham Smith
with photography by Pat Greenfield.*

A book covering all species of big-leaf rhododendrons.

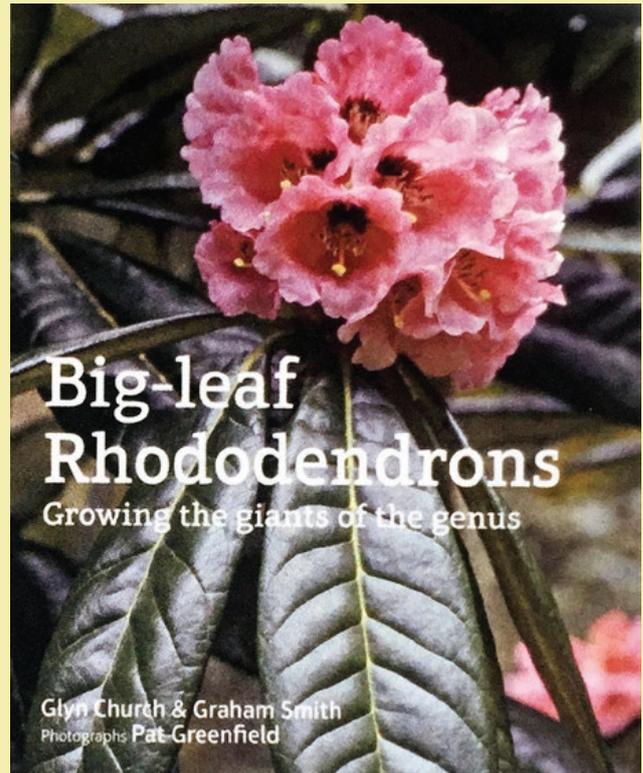
Rhododendrons have always been regarded as the elite plants of the garden, and the big-leaf rhododendrons are the giants of the family, both literally and figuratively.

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, this is a fascinating journey into the world of rhododendrons.

RRP \$59.99 (incl. p&p within New Zealand)



The buds of an unnamed hybrid *R. 'Ina Hair'* x *R. protistum*



R. 'Jack Anderson'

Both raised at Pukeiti by Graham Smith.