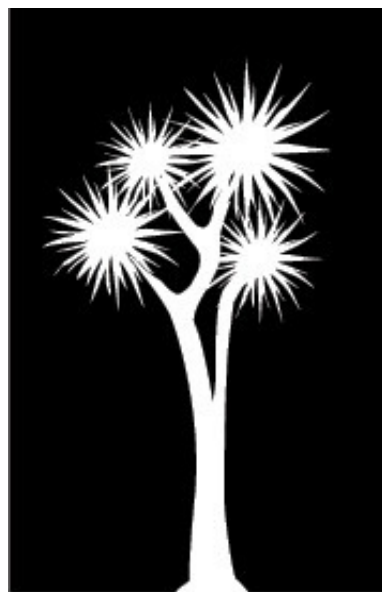


Friends History



FRIENDS
Auckland Botanic Gardens

Part 1: Reflections



The Establishment of Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens and the Annual General Meetings.

In the beginning

(1983 - 1995, notes compiled by Brian Buchanan)

Friday 25/2/83 at 7.00pm. A public meeting was called at the Gardens to consider the formation of a Botanic Gardens Trust. It was held in the courtyard outside the Information Centre and chaired by Dr Lindo Ferguson (Deputy Chair of the Auckland Regional Authority). A heads of agreement for the constitution of the Society was adopted and a steering committee appointed to complete the details of Incorporation. The steering committee was: Mr Ian Boyle, Mrs Mary Boyle, Mr Arthur Brown, Miss Joan Dingley, Mr Philip Hunt, Mrs Helen Keate, Mrs Lynne Trafford, Mrs Jean Veal, and Mr Len Williams. It was resolved that the society be called 'The Friends of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens Inc.' the date of the first AGM was set for 29/4/83.

Friday 29/4/83 at 7.40pm. The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the 'Friends' was chaired by Mr Fred Barber (Chairman, Regional Parks Committee), and held in the Manukau City Council administration building. Mr Ray Mole, Curator, Otari Outdoor Plant Museum, provided an illuminated address on 'Native Plants of Interest and Use in the Home Garden'. The meeting was attended by about 100 people, most of whom joined the new organisation to become, along with those who joined in the first year of the Friends existence, Foundation Members.

Subscriptions were set at:
Ordinary Members: \$10.00,
Partner Members: \$15.00,
Student Members: \$5.00

Foundation Members

Many Foundation members remained staunch supporters through the first 25 years and have had a number of roles such as on the Executive Committee, perhaps holding office, as a member of the Trustees, in volunteer groups, plant evaluation panels or just working quietly behind the scenes.

Memories of those early days are many and varied and a selection of them are recorded here, some in the member's own words, some following an interview, and others from the memories of those who knew them well

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr JP Adam | Mr & Mrs C Allen | Mrs RE Arvidson | Mrs DM Barker |
| Dr & Mrs RL Bieleski | Mr AL & Mrs JM Bisley | Mr & Mrs A Brown | Mr BL Buchanan |
| Mr DH Bull | Mrs PC Chapman | Miss M Chudley | Dr & Mrs AL Cowan |
| Mrs B Dalton | Dr & Mrs R Davison | Mr & Mrs G Dawson | Miss J Dickinson |
| Miss J Dingley | Miss P Dutton | Mr LE Fieldsend | Mr CE Galbraith |
| Miss GE Galbraith | Mrs G Grant | Mrs AW Hanley | Mrs C Hare |
| Mrs C Harvey | Mrs AM Haywood | Mr& Mrs PB Hunt | Jean Batten Primary School |
| Mr & Mrs PJ Jew | Mrs JW Kealy | Mr & Mrs JF Keate | Mrs B Keene |
| Miss F Knox | Mr J Komsars | Mr & Mrs R Lambert | Mrs AM Lockwood |
| Mr & Mrs McFadgen | Dr & Mrs BC McLeay | Mrs Y McNamara | Mr & Mrs JR Merriman |
| Mrs MG Muggleston | Mrs MA O'Connor | Miss MW Patterson | Mrs JH Price |
| Miss J Proctor | Mrs NM Rauschenberger | Mr & Mrs Ridgley | Mr & Mrs R Roach |
| Dr& Mrs J Rogers | Mr & Mrs JM Ross | Mr MR Ryan | Mr EP Salmon OBE JP |
| Mr C Smuts-Kennedy | Soroptomist International of South Auckland | Mr MG Tomlin | Mr & Mrs AS Trafford |
| Mr & Mrs RH Veal | Mrs SM Weight | Mr RM Wells | Mrs D White |
| Mr & Mrs LA Williams | Miss CB Wilson | Mr R Wise | |

Phillip Jew, MBE
General Manager
Auckland Regional Parks, 1966 – 1993

Founder Member, Friends

Life Member, 1993

Chair of Trustees, 1997 - 2000

Congratulations to the Friends Society on reaching the milestone of having supported the Gardens for twenty five years. Members can derive great satisfaction from having played a significant part in creating a botanical establishment that is serving the Auckland community with distinction and attracting commendations both nationally and internationally. As one closely associated with the Society's formation in 1983 I can confirm that we have exceeded the aspirations and expectations held at that time.

Personal.

I had the good fortune to be the foundation chief officer of the Auckland Regional Parks network which included the establishment of a botanic garden. My interest in botanic gardens goes back to 1952 when, with a recommendation from the Auckland City Council, I was accepted as a student at the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, England. Subsequently I continued my studies at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London, which has been training staff for botanic gardens for over two centuries.

From the time that I had entered the horticultural profession in 1946 I was conscious of absence of a true botanic garden in Auckland. Therefore in my travels I was prompted not only to study the plants in botanic gardens but also the management and the role that these institutions played in the cultural life of the country.

My opportunity to become involved in creating a botanic garden for Auckland came with my appointment in 1966 to lead the establishment of a regional parks network within the newly formed Auckland Regional Authority. At that time a group of Auckland citizens led by Professor Val. Chapman of the Auckland University Botany Department were advocating the establishment of a botanic garden on the present site and considered this new Authority was the appropriate agency to develop and lead it. With some reluctance the Authority accepted the role in 1967 on the premise that the wider community would honour its promise to assist with funding and expertise. After protracted negotiations the first part of the present site was purchased in 1968 through the goodwill and cooperation of the landowners, the Nathan Family Trust, and the City of Manukau.

The Authority promptly set up a working party comprising representatives from interested organisations such as the University, the Education Department, the Auckland Horticultural Council and the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture to clarify the particular role of these Gardens and prepare a preliminary development plan. This was to ensure that the Gardens would be able to meet the wider needs of Auckland. However, even with this start, no other public agency was prepared to be directly associated with the administration of this new garden. Fortunately the Authority was prepared to continue with the project and fund it. The initial task was to create a community awareness of the educational role of a full botanic garden. It was necessary to overcome a widely held view that all botanic gardens were replicas of "Kew Gardens".

Shortly after the purchase of the Manurewa site in 1968, I was directed by the Authority to travel overseas to study the changing role of botanic gardens in the community. This provided an opportunity to visit some of the leading institutions and being a Kewite I was accorded the utmost of cooperation and assistance. Two notable changes in their operation since my student days were the increasing involvement of community volunteers in the work of their gardens and the establishment of Trusts and Foundations in conjunction with Friends organisations to seek community financial support. This was enhancing their gardens and facilitating their work. Conspicuous leaders in this innovation were the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens in New York.

Therefore after the establishment of the basic plant collections at Manurewa and the provision of minimal public facilities, the Regional Authority gave attention to the establishment of a constituted Friends Society with the preparation of the necessary draft documentation. This Society was to simplify the process of attracting community support for the Gardens although several significant gifts had been received already such as the Logan Campbell Lecture building. This Society was launched in February 1983 in association with the celebration of the first anniversary of the opening of the Gardens. Since the inaugural meeting of

the Society the constitution has been shaped and modified to meet the particular needs of the Auckland situation. Friends' roles are closely related to the particular needs of the establishment. Therefore like the gardens themselves, no two societies are exactly similar. To ensure its success, the Authority was anxious that provision was made in the constitution for the Society and the Authority to retain close links.

The First Twenty Five Years.

In reviewing the first twenty five years of the Society from a personal perspective I must applaud the enthusiasm, the commitment and the sustained efforts of the Friends in keeping the Gardens a progressive establishment. Botanic gardens administered by local authorities have a record of plunging into periods of inactivity and financial neglect. Such has not been the case with the Auckland gardens, due largely to the vitality of the Friends.

One of the most innovative projects undertaken by the Friends was the establishment of the Friends Horticultural Reference Library which was opened in 1992. This library has strengthened the educational role of the Gardens which is its reason for existence. This facility was constructed and funded within twelve months, giving the Friends confidence to embark on other major projects. More recently the support of the Friends in achieving the new visitors centre has been a further stimulant.

Next Twenty Five Years. (A personal prognosis)

The Friends Society will find the challenges of the next twenty five years no less daunting than this first era. The Botanic Gardens like any other effective public agency will be reviewing and extending its services to the regional community. To achieve these advancements our Gardens will need the continued support and enthusiasm of the Friends. This will involve not only the assistance of volunteers and increased financial support for the "extras", but also the promotion in the community of the Botanic Garden's roles and achievements.

Horticulture is tending to lose its rightful place in the world today and there is a diminishing recognition of the contribution that plants make to the unique quality of life in this country. Botanic Gardens are likely to become the last reservoirs of comprehensive collections of ornamental plants and a source of reliable information. The success of Botanic Gardens in this demanding role will be influenced by the support and assistance that they receive from the community led by Friends organisations. In these widening roles let us ensure that our gardens remain a significant centre of beauty and plant knowledge in this region.

Phil Jew at Soup Day 2015



Lynne Trafford

Founder member, Friends

President, 1985 – 1987

Chair of Trustees, 1991 – 1993

Life Member, 1992

Soon after the Garden opened the ARC (or maybe it was the ARA then), held a public meeting to moot the idea of a Friends organisation. I went to that meeting — funny thing is I even remember what I was wearing! How strange is that!!!!!!

A Committee was appointed from those present and I was one of them. I was the youngest person on the Committee and the only one who knew nothing about gardens or horticulture! However, I was passionate about parks and public places being set aside for people.

The Committee worked for some months to put in place the original Trust Deed and at the first birthday of the Garden the inaugural Friends Committee was put in place.

I was the first secretary, and the second president.

We celebrated our Friends' birthday not only with a Learned Lecture, but also with some wonderful birthday cakes. I do recall the first lecture was held at the Auckland University, but can't remember the lecturer. The next one was held at Manukau City Council, by the curator of the Otari Native Plant Museum. Again I can not remember his name (Ray Mole, Ed). From then on in, they were held at the Garden. David Bellamy was a very popular TV personage and we loved having him as our guest.

As president, I full well knew that the ARC wanted as quickly as possible to increase visitor numbers to the Garden and to give ownership of the Garden to the people of the entire Greater Auckland Region, not just to the people of Manukau City.

We beavered away at this goal by trying to hold a variety of events that would bring different sectors of the community to the Garden, not just people interested in gardens. We held, monthly garden rambles, plant sales, talks, a Spring Festival complete with Spring Bonnet Parade (I wore a spring!), picnics with such esteemed guests as the Continental Brass Band (then the best in the World), and our Birthday celebrations got bigger and bigger. We tried to not only increase awareness of the Garden but respect the educational value of the Garden as well. I also felt it was important to visit other Gardens and started a series of bus trips for the Friends. These were well received.

The ARC also needed to bring on side various organizations that had interests in plants, horticulture, education and science. For example, the CRIs (Crown Research Institutes) and the Nursery Association who were not certain what kind of a 'threat' this new facility might be to them.

We needed buildings and the Sir John Logan Campbell Trust assisted with funding several of them.

Carrington Technical Institute, in a rather unique gesture, 'donated' the Carrington building and a competition was held to landscape a typical 1/4 acre section around it. The Education Board donated the Classroom and lessons for school children were started. I became involved in fundraising for the Gardens to construct structures that were outside of the ARC budget. My first venture being the Rose Pergola, then situated where the Visitor Centre now sits. Local businesses were generous in their support and got used to me asking for various things.

I stayed on the Friends Committee as a Past President until I was asked to join the Board of Trustees.

During my time, the Rose Trials were started and the Rose of The Year became a wonderful event. Maggie's Garden Show wanted to be part of the Gardens and Jack became a 'star'. Brian Buchanan, the first superintendent, a Friend to all of us, died. I visited Christchurch Botanic Garden to talk about starting a Friends' organisation there, and was surprised when I visited Kew, that they didn't have one.

I was honoured to be given the status of Honorary Life Member, because of my fundraising contribution rather than my lack of plant knowledge. I love to visit the Gardens when I am in Auckland and look with pride at what they are now. I remember fondly planting hundreds of bulbs and trees. Most of all, I remember the wonderful Friends.

Whenever friends and family asked me why I spend so much of my time working for the Gardens, the answer was always the same ... they will look so wonderful in 100 years time. They will!

Holly Powley (Roach)

Founder member

President, 1991 – 1993

Trustee, 1991 – 1993

Life Member, 1994

Holly joined the Friends as a Founder Member, and was co-opted on to the committee in 1984 by the late Jean Veal. Sheila Weight convinced her that she could be President and in 1991 Holly was elected to that position, and from 1991 also served as a member of the Trustees.

When Holly joined the Friends she was married with two sons (who still live in Auckland with her grandsons Liam and Mason). During her time with the Friends she was also secretary of the Auckland Herb Society, secretary of the Auckland 4 Wheel Drive Club, secretary of the Manukau 10-Pin Bowling Club and started a group called the Garden Quilters. Holly is a keen patchworker and quilter. She was also working! You know what they say about getting things done give them to a busy person! Holly must be the person that statement was written for!

Holly joined the Friends as she lived close to the Gardens in Manurewa and was keen to increase her knowledge of plants, in particular, New Zealand plants. She found her time in the Friends gave her the opportunity to learn a great deal and meet many and varied new friends, new challenges and new interests.

Holly acknowledges the support of the Committee in the Friends' achievements at the time and, in particular, the dedication and support of Brian Buchanan and Roger Price.

Some of the highlights of Holly's presidency were the first Friends' bus trip, the first Soup Day, the Joint Venture Social with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and President, Muriel Pindur, the bus trip to Christchurch, library fundraising, the opening of the Library and introducing Dame Cath Tizard and making a speech on that occasion, the Rose Judging days (and the wine that went with them), and receiving an Honorary Life Membership. Fun, friendship and hard work.

Holly left the Friends in January 1995 to re-marry and live in the UK. She was able to join us in 2007 to celebrate the Gardens' 25th Anniversary.

Holly hopes that her dream of retiring and returning with her husband to live in New Zealand will become a reality and that those friendships made through the Friends will be renewed.



John Adam

Founder member

I joined the Friends when I was employed at the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens in 1979-1980. I was briefly Foreman and had the nursery/ propagation and student training as my main responsibility which I did enjoy.

I boarded with a family in Manurewa and cycled each day to and from work before I got the job at the University of Auckland in late 1980 (to 1998). I vividly remember the opening of the Botanic Gardens when David Bellamy planted a tree at the opening. Sir David and Lady Beattie opened the place? I still have the small booklet and poster printed at the time of the opening. As a member of the Friends I would attend the yearly lecture coming by car from town.

In those days I belonged to many local committees such as Auckland Tree Society, South Auckland Forest & Bird, Auckland Institute of Horticulture, Native Forest Action Council and others. I remember the meetings of Friends in the prefabs near the motorway and then moving to the far Eastern side of the gardens.

I came across this story attached below, by the late Brian Buchanan that you may find interesting. There are similar stories published in the Commercial Horticulture magazine.

"In 1983 Friends of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens Inc" was formed as a support group. Members assist with Garden activities as well as manning the Information Centre over the weekends. They sell greeting cards and postcards, which they funded and each year donate books for the library which is an invaluable resource for researching plant information and names" (Buchanan 1989)

I was not a member of the Friends committee - probably because I went to work at the University and through sitting on the many societies noticed there was a place for the study of the history of the groups including the environment (which has become called Environmental History).

So my energies were spent in the "history" stream which has kept me busy.

My experience with the gardens led me over the years to collect historical data about the origin of Auckland's other botanic gardens and those made on the Auckland Domain. I remember a newspaper story written by the Prof. Chapman at University about the Auckland Domain and I later discovered some of Thomas Lancaster's writings and the links he made with Leonard Cockayne. The Auckland Domain Botanic Gardens topic I researched for a special paper for my Bachelors in Arts in Anthropology in 2000. My passion now is the overseas links of environmental, garden, landscape and forest history influences on New Zealand through Australia and North America and I have continued to find notable visitors coming down under and then writing about what they observed. A Harvard professor, G. L Goodale, came here in 1891 to attend the first Australian Association for Advancement of Science conference at Christchurch. I have found historical records about North America and Australia in the Te Papa libraries and web i.e. Google Books a great source of new distant knowledge about people who came to work in NZ. The past 12 months have found my paid work studying Sir James Hector's career which has challenged my knowledge about science history. (It is through Hector I found Goodale). James Hector and his wife Georgina were keen gardeners and what seems unusual for the times may have had no paid help with the "Ratanui" garden they established in the Lower Hutt.

Buchanan, B. 1989 Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, *Annual Journal, RNZIH*, 16 P51-52

Bev McConnell

Founder member

Trustee, 1986 – 1989

Life Member, 2008

The demanding but rewarding task of being Owner/Creator of Ayrli's Garden since 1964 left me little time to become actively involved with The Friends though I wholeheartedly supported the concept and wished I could have been of greater use.

Through Sheila Weight I became a Trustee for two years and this helped give me some insight to the work the Friends were doing to support the Garden.

Predominantly my involvement has been through a long and valued association with Jack Hobbs, the Manager of the Gardens.

I was part of the working party for the Development Plan in 1997 and somehow became happily involved in many other issues, the main one being the recent design and building of the new Visitors Centre. The Friends are a critical part of the Botanic Gardens. Not just in providing funds for many projects including Educational Travel Awards, sculpture, the Library, artworks etc; but also for keeping us all in touch with what is actually happening in the garden, soup day, newsletters, plant sales and festivals. These activities are so often under valued but to me they are the heart and soul of a strong group of knowledgeable supporters whose role keeps evolving as this wonderful garden grows.

John Ross

Founder member

John Ross, having joined the then Auckland Regional Authority (ARA) Parks Department in 1981 as a management officer, found himself one of the Friends' Foundation members a couple of years later and remained actively involved with the Friends for nearly two decades. While employed in the Parks Department he assisted Phil Jew, the Director of Parks, supplying financial information and advice. John came to New Zealand in March 1958 from Britain and worked in a merchant finance company for 22 years, retiring as managing director. Wanting to achieve something for the community, he applied for a position in the ARA's Parks Department.

John has filled many roles. Before the Gardens were open to the public he was secretary of the standing committee. He was a member of the Friends' first executive committee and worked with Jean Veal while she was Treasurer. In 1993, he took over from Jean as Treasurer and held that position for four years. He attended the Rambles and handled the money from them. He also assisted with the printing of the Friends' newsletter in the early days.

John recalls numerous highlights from his many years of involvement:

- ◆ The official opening of the Gardens and taking some part in looking after David Bellamy
- ◆ The opening of the Friends building
- ◆ The formation of the lake

The Library was a great achievement and the decision to label the plants added a new layer of interest. The provision of signage and information boards and the leaflets about the plants helped the layman appreciate the Gardens more.

During the first ten years, he saw "paddocks progressively turned into a garden paradise".

His wife, Flo, is the gardener and a rosarian and he is the gardener's labourer. John always enjoyed Rose Day.

John punted on a lake in the Botanic Gardens in Churchtown, when a young boy and gaining views of the Gardens from the water was a treat; one which he believes might one day be replicated in our Botanic Gardens.

Sheila Weight

Founder member

President, 1987 – 1989

Chair of Trustees, 1995 – 1997

Life member, 1995

Sheila Weight became involved with the Botanic Gardens in 1980 when she was elected a member of the then Auckland Regional Authority. She was on the Parks Committee and all politicians on that Committee were Foundation Members of the Friends.

She remembers the opening of the Gardens as she looked after Mrs Beattie, the Governor General's mother who attended the ceremony.

After her term of office was finished, Sheila remained active with the Friends as she had become very interested in plants by that time. She had learned a great deal from others and this was important to her. Sheila formulated the original constitution and became the Friends' third president.

The focus in the early days of the Gardens was on encouraging interest in the Botanic Gardens, organising events and gaining members for the Friends.

She came to New Zealand in 1946 after five years in the Air Force in Britain where she trained others in the use of radar equipment. She was struck by the great emphasis New Zealanders placed on gardening. She had neither interest in nor opportunity to garden in England. Arriving in New Zealand with its quarter acre sections and a wonderful climate was quite different. She remembers the constraints imposed by her father who was a keen gardener. He was shocked when her New Zealand boyfriend sat down on the grass, she doesn't remember it being called a lawn. She and her sister were never allowed to play with a ball in the garden in case they damaged his precious begonias!

She has never really had what she calls a garden but she does grow plants around her house. Coming from England she loves trees – so many different shades and tones of green. Roses are her favourite plant. Her father grew 'Mermaid', a single yellow climber. Today she has one rose in her garden and it too is yellow. She likes to have red and yellow together. One side of the house has yellow and red flowering plants, while on the other side blues and pinks dominate with of course the usual transgressions. Two of her six sons are grow trees and the one in Christchurch is particularly fond of roses.

The South African collection is one of her favourite spots in the Gardens; it is very special and very different. She can recall when it was all bare land.

As for the future, Sheila is happy to enjoy what others are planning.

Joy Amos

Founder member

Life Member, 1992

I grew up on the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, Aberystwyth, where my father JW Watkins was Superintendent.

He was a gardener, trained in the traditional way by working in a succession of gardens, including RHS at Kew.

Prof RG Stapledon was the Director, intent on improving the pastures and therefore the incomes of the hill farmers of Wales, by breeding and selecting more productive grasses and clovers, some originating in New Zealand.

Horticulture was the obvious choice of career when I left school, though unusual for a woman at that time. Kowhais were in full flower when I arrived in Auckland in 1958. It was spring, in September instead of March. The sun was in the North instead of the South. There were so many plants in parks and gardens that I had never seen before; and even those I knew were different, growing so luxuriantly - some as weeds. There was a lot to learn. Jim Say in the Department of Agriculture was a most patient tutor and colleague. Joan Dingley too, in DSIR. So many plants from around the world grew happily together in Auckland gardens, and that, for me, is the attraction of the Plant Group meetings, with Mary's beautiful basket of flowers and foliage always there to inspire us, and members sharing their experience of growing so many lovely plants.

When I was nearing retirement from MAF in 1980, I was invited to take part in discussions about the development of the new Botanic Garden - a rare and exciting prospect for anyone interested in plants. I doubt if I contributed much of value, but I learnt a lot about the constraints of finance, and management of such a project.

Next was the Tree and Shrub evaluation panel with George Rainey chairman and Brian Buchanan secretary. The objective was to assess and select the most reliable species and cultivars for Auckland gardens and compile appropriate advisory leaflets. These meetings were lively and most enjoyable as conflicting experience, particularly from Jean Veal, was voiced, and then amicably resolved.

Subsequently the Bulb and Perennial evaluation panel was convened, Brian again being secretary with myself in the chair.

When Steve Benham was appointed, I felt he put the Botany into the Botanic Gardens, amongst other things identifying plants and developing the 'endangered plants' that I used to call 'Steve's weeds!'

The edible garden and Roger Price's work with children and their teachers are of such value to the community and for the future. The Maori flax collection and other aspects of indigenous culture are so appropriate and could be extended to include indigenous plants bred for their therapeutic value. Jack Hobbs' hebes and manukas, bred for Auckland conditions are outstanding; as are many plants bred by Terry Hatch, Keith Hammett and others. We are fortunate to have such people associated with the Gardens. More of their plants should be displayed prominently.

Looking to the future - long term planning and clear objectives are needed, to develop this as a BOTANIC garden, not just a park.

The relevance of Botanic Gardens has exercised the minds of those involved with Kew Gardens and the new National Botanic Garden of Wales, and others. Their ideas and conclusions are published, and are possibly the most worthy of consideration for the future of the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

The role of the Friends would be to continue to support some of these projects.

References:

The National Botanic Garden of Wales. (2000) Ed. Andrew Sclater Harper Collins

RHS History of Kew

Sue Davison

Founder member

Trustee, 2003 - 2008

One day in the mid 1960's I looked out the window of my lab at the DSIR and saw three staff – Ted Chamberlain (our Director), Joan Dingley and Jim Hunter putting spades and gumboots in the back of a car before driving away. Later I learned they had visited a possible Botanic Gardens' site in Manurewa to look at the soils, lie of the land etc. They were all members of the Auckland District Council (now Auckland Branch), RNZIH, very experienced horticulturalists, and reported favourably on the site which was subsequently purchased by the ARA. I represented the RNZIH in 1973 when the first sod was turned. My two-year old wandered around the paddock, collecting dry cow pats – "Here you are Mummy" - guess who did not go to afternoon tea after the official business was concluded!

RNZIH members continued to play a role when the Gardens were in the early stages of development. We met Brian Buchanan, the newly appointed superintendent and members Joan Dingley, Joy Amos, the late Jean Veal and others were of considerable help to Brian as their knowledge of plants, especially those suited to Auckland conditions, was immense. We held an annual spring outing to walk the Gardens, to check out progress and talk plants. Dave and Claire Bull, Hugh Redgrove, Noel Kitchen, Joy, Joan, Jean, Dr Max Goodey and many others were among the enthusiasts and are on the roll of Foundation Members of the Friends.

I represented the RNZIH on the Technical advisory committee for three years immediately prior to the opening of the Gardens. During discussions about the furnishing of the new Logan Campbell lecture building, donated for the use of Horticultural societies, I recall arguing against carpeting the floor – too hard to clean up after meetings or shows where there was a lot of plant material around. I find it ironical that this building is now carpeted and so booked up by Church groups and the like that horticultural societies can't get a look in. (Since writing this one of the regular weekend bookings has been cancelled!)

The grand opening weekend of the Botanic Gardens was fantastic. Star guest, the 'Botanic Man', David Bellamy was at the height of his fame and it seemed the whole of Auckland turned up on the Sunday, the first day the Gardens were open to the public. Such was the enthusiasm many people asked about how they could become involved in the project so a book was put out for people to sign. It was another year before the Friends steering committee was set up – you can't establish an Incorporated Society overnight and rules, objectives etc have to be carefully thought out.

Lifestyles in the 1970's and 1980's were different. People still gardened and enjoyed their plants, vegetable gardens etc. So in the early years the Friends members were largely keen gardens/plants people. More importantly they had time to come to events at the Gardens. Friends' bus trips were always booked out and often a second bus had to be put on, and soup days attracted over 100 people. I recall the first perennial walk. Brian proposed a light meal served by the new café, followed by a walk to the perennial gardens – a magic place on a fine summer evening. We thought we might get 30 – 40 people along but the numbers

kept going up to the point where the original little café couldn't cope. Brian phoned – can we cater ourselves for 70 people?? Yes of course we can. Then a couple of days later – how about 100? We assembled a team to put together a light salad meal and eventually served about 140 people! This event continued for several years until its popularity waned and it was replaced with barbecues at a private garden and in the South African garden. Plant sales started when we were offered divisions of plants after the perennial garden was worked over in winter. Jean, Joan, Joy (the 3 'Fs') and others sorted, named and priced clumps of newly lifted plants and sold them from in front of the Unitec building on a winter morning. This was followed by the soup lunch and, weather permitting, a walk to the Camellia garden. Soup day soon mushroomed to the point where the Unitec building was too small and we moved into the covered courtyard. The committee had their work cut out making and serving soup to nearly 150 members, the largest group to assemble. Weather permitting Brian would suggest a walk and those interested, usually quite a number, would set off and leave the committee and other helpers to clean up.

The Growing Friends group was set up after Brian Buchanan visited Melbourne where he saw a similar group at the Botanic Gardens there. The 'Big Spring' and 'Big Autumn' sales were very popular. Setting up in the covered courtyard was a mammoth job and keeping the waiting public at bay difficult. Members were allowed in for first choice and then the public. The worst part was clearing up at the end of the day and carting all the unsold plants back to the nursery. It is so much easier now with plant sales being held in the nursery though bad weather has to be factored into arrangements.

The Visitor Centre was originally open only on week days. Many of us, especially Joan Dingley, thought it important for it to be open at weekends when there were so many more visitors. So she sowed the idea of a roster of volunteers to open the centre initially on Sunday afternoons and then on Saturdays also. She organised the volunteers for several years then handed the job over to me in 1992. When the Library opened Roger Price persuaded me to take on that roster also as we had several 'couples' among the volunteers and they could staff both the centre and the Library on Saturdays. We also opened the Visitor Centre on Public Holidays so it was quite a big job to find enough people. One of the best things about being in the Visitor Centre, apart from the relationships we built up with Gardens staff, was observing the weddings held at the Gardens. My role as volunteer coordinator was 'dis-established' when the new visitor centre was opened. As it was getting much harder to find volunteers I was not sorry when this happened. (There was a time when we had a waiting list of volunteers – seems hard to believe now)

Annual meetings followed by dinner and a speaker were the order of the day until recently. We had some memorable events – a plants and magic theme for one meeting with Gill Painter the speaker was one stand-out with the courtyard appropriately decorated. Ross Ferguson also proved a great after-dinner speaker with a talk "Plants that changed the world". It was highly entertaining and informative – no after-dinner snoozing that night.

Committee work in the earlier days was rewarding – I think members on the whole had more time to give so the workload was shared around. We also had the benefit of Brian on the committee – looking back he seemed to have had good ideas regarding the role Friends could play and ideas about events and where the Friends would be able to help.

I consider myself lucky to have been involved from the early 'planning and planting' days and with various activities since the Gardens opened. Best of all were the people I have met and the friendships made over the years.

The images below show Brian Buchanan and Sue Davison and Phil Jew at the Gardens 25th Anniversary



Rod Bielecki

Founder member

President, 1999 – 2001

Trustee, 1996 – 2003

Life Member, 2004

My connection with the Gardens began in about 1977 before the formal opening when an Advisory Committee for the establishment and development of the Gardens was formed, and I landed up on it to represent the “scientific” and “DSIR” aspect. The DSIR in those days had been deeply involved in the early stages of pushing the creation of botanic gardens, land selection etc. through Joan Dingley, Jim Hunter, and Sue Davison etc. I’m not quite sure why I landed up as the person to be the face of DSIR – possibly because I had ties to some of the original movers and shakers (Hunter and Dingley were colleagues, Prof. Chapman was my old professor, and Val & I were neighbours of Harry Beaumont). Also I’d encountered Phil Jew when I met with him to push the ARC to purchase my uncle’s farm from his estate (they did and it’s now the Karamatura part of the ARC Waitakere parks). Also I lived close by so could sit in without major travel. As I saw it, my particular role was to keep the “scientific” aspect of a true botanic gardens from being swamped into a general “pretty park” development. I don’t know how far my early input was instrumental in keeping the “science” in with the “garden”, but it always pleases me that, in my view, such a balance has been kept throughout the tenures of Brian Buchanan and Jack Hobbs. Anyway, my main memory of relevance from that time was seeing and discussing the design proposals for the development of the Gardens. In my memory, it was quite a bit more “formal gardens, Albert Park-ish” than it has turned out – very much for the better in my belief. But one particular point the designer made stuck in my mind - she felt that the centre of the Gardens, for location of buildings, should be on the high ground near Hill Rd., to the eastern side (away from the motorway), not far from where the caretaker’s house is now. She spoke a lot about the Gardens unfolding before the eye, with paths and sightlines drawing the eye from close by to the distant prospect. To quite a degree that vision was lost during the early development of the Gardens, through the lack of a central viewpoint (other than the car park) and with the main buildings tucked along the motorway edge. Perhaps it was happy chance, perhaps it was other’s memories working, but the new Visitor Centre does provide exactly that “prospect” aspect, with the eyes being drawn into the view à la Capability Brown, as envisaged by that original designer. The layout is less formal, freer in form than she envisaged, with the lakes added, but the effect is the same as she intended, and is a delight. We do have to make absolutely sure that the backdrop, beyond the Puhinui Stream up to the Goodwood Heights development, is kept in bush – we have to make sure that the MCC ‘Totara Park’ part is never ‘developed’ but held in regenerating native forest, as this is an important component in creating depth and structure to the prospect.

This first link, for me, ended when I took a year’s sabbatical break in USA in 1979. I obviously wasn’t able to attend meetings, and I felt strongly that DSIR should keep its presence, so I suggested Graham Robertson should take my place. I guess my original thought was that Graham would hand the torch back to me when I returned, but for a variety of reasons (mainly the quality of Graham’s input, his keen interest and my diversion with starting up a new DSIR Division), Graham stayed on, and that is the story of the start of his huge and continuing commitment to the Gardens. Over the first few years of the Botanic Gardens, during the 1980s, I was pretty much taken up with my DSIR Director’s job, and though poked in the ribs occasionally by Ron and Sue Davison, I had pretty much of a sleeping interest. Somehow I did land up being a member of the official party doing the tree-planting at the formal opening of the Gardens (I presume representing DSIR but I can’t remember now), and I can remember being rather proud that I did a proper planting job rather than just dumping the plant, ball and all, in the hole and heaving earth in after it. At the time I was sure my tree would do better than all the rest, but by the time I got to that part of the Gardens to inspect my work, not only had I forgotten which was my tree, but exactly which was our formal group of trees. Perhaps the Gardens should rectify the anonymity of the group and put up a bronze tablet! My other participation at that time was, with Val, to respond to Sue’s jolly and become Foundation Members of the Friends.

A memory I have from that early time, fragmentary and rather apocryphal, was of the effort that was put into breaking up the Manurewa (and Redoubt Rd.) clag of a soil during the development of the main

planting beds. For those of us that have gardened in the Manurewa clag, we know there is only one answer to having good plant conditions. Drains don't work: you have to build up the beds 40-60 cm above the clay level with free-draining materials and well supplied with organic goodies. As I remember the events, at the critical time Wiri was being taken over by light industry and the old wool stores which had been there were being pulled down. In the corners, under the floors and god-knows where else, there were piles and piles of daggy wool, more dags than wool, discarded from years and years of baling operations. Brian got to hear of it, and offered to give a home in the Gardens for what was to the developers a damn nuisance, a waste material that had to be gotten rid of. So truckloads and truckloads of this marvellous and free organic treasure trundled into the Gardens and were distributed around the developing beds, all to be worked over and dug in. There is a good reason why our Gardens have such fine plants on such a difficult soil substrate: it's the effort that went in to soil improvement right at the beginning. Anyway, that's my imperfect memory.

In 1996 I retired from DSIR and immediately Val and I cranked up our interest in the Gardens. I joined the Committee, Val started up the editing of the new Botanic Gardens newsletter, "The Auckland Garden", started in March 1997. Gradually, as I hogged the computer and had direct access to a lot of the key material for publishing by being on the Executive, I took over the editor's job, which I still carry out. Val's idea, not to be argued against, was that our garden needed her input rather than the Gardens, and I was better kept out of our (her) garden and given horticultural stimulation in another way. "The Auckland Garden" has evolved somewhat over the 10 years, but the main thrust is still there – a balance between Friends news, Gardens news, and gardening topics. A thing I am proud of is that, with the considerable help of the ARC printer, Julie Steele, and the packing group under Joan Karadji, we now have the Newsletter reliably arriving in members' homes on or around the second Wednesday of the issue month (March, June, September, December).

In my first report to the Friends as President, I referred to the way one inherited initiatives started by the previous President, and in my second I referred to the nascent projects from my Presidency that were being passed on. During my time as President I benefited by also being on the Board of the Auckland Museum. The two institutions, Gardens and Museum, have a lot in common, and I found I was able to gain a lot from applying ideas from one to the other (in both directions). In a way it is a pity that a closer Gardens-Museum liaison hasn't been set up, but maybe that is something for the future. During my term, the Committee developed strong support for creation of a "coastal plant display" and this went some way down the line before it was overtaken by the Government making a \$100,000 special APEC-thank-you grant to the Gardens to build an endangered plants display and conservation display. [The story behind this was that a number of organisations, and particularly the Museum, had helped to make the APEC meeting a great success, and Government expressed its wish to recognise Auckland's help. It asked for expressions of interest for projects to be funded, and Jack reacted promptly by putting forward a well thought out and documented proposal when very few others did. Windfall maybe, but a huge tribute to Jack's alertness. This unexpected bonus of Government funding for the Endangered Plant Garden and program led to all the spare effort and energy within the Gardens being directed at this significant project. Other projects we had planned for Friends support (Coastal Garden, Children's Discovery Garden) had to take a back seat. Though the coastal garden was subsequently envisaged as being part of the Threatened Plant Garden, that sector had to be left in the air at the time, to be completed recently. Another step forward during my term began in the mind of a member of the Trust Board, Cr. Fred Anderson, and was taken up enthusiastically by the Committee. It was to have an internal transport system. The Friends made application in late 1999 to the Wiri Licensing Trust for a grant for its development, was successful, and construction got under way, to be completed in my second year. This was the birth of the Wiri Rambler.

Another initiative that was actively under consideration during my term was to develop a Children's Garden, provisionally to be placed adjacent to the UNITEC Education Centre. This was given a kick along the way by Anthony Tesselaar who during 1998-99 donated just over \$12,000 towards construction of a Gardens project to recognise the Gardens' role in promoting ornamental horticulture. At the time, it was the Committee's view that this project should be the Children's Garden, and we anticipated that the Friends would need to contribute an extra \$50,000 either out of their own funds or through obtaining sponsorship. However the load of work on Gardens staff first for the Threatened Plant Garden and then the Visitor Centre held this project back for some years; but later on the sponsorship path was successful through the Potter Masonic Trust fund, leading to the opening of the Children's Garden in March 2005 by

HRH the Prince of Wales. Another step forward seems trivial now, but at the time it did require something of a struggle to get acceptance. It was the purchase of a computer to hold membership records, to print labels, and to hold backup files of Society data held on committee members' own computers. Till then, we had depended for our membership records on an aging computer, held I think by Sue Davison and originally owned by Brian Buchanan, which was totally at the end of its life. This certainly made the keeping of records much easier and reliable. It also greatly simplified the job of dealing with GST. At that time, our income stream was slightly below the Inland Revenue cut-off level where GST registration was obligatory, but we felt it advisable to plan for extra income coming in from the Wiri Rambler and other fund-raising activities. We made the decision to set up for GST while we had time to bed it down, rather than do it in a panic later on.

Perhaps the thing I have been proudest of was arranging to have a face-to-face meeting with the CEO of the ARC at that time, Jo Brosnahan. At that time, I felt there was not a full appreciation in her mind of the extent to which a new Visitor Centre was needed in the Gardens, how much it was supported by the Friends, how much in sync the Friends and the Gardens staff were, and how much serious funding could be brought in by the Friends. Our little deputation explained that the Friends had the reserves to be able to commit in the order of \$150,000 (the sum we did commit in the end), but that more powerfully than that, we could be a path for bringing charitable donations into the project. This particular aspect had been clarified for me by Kay McIntyre, a member of the ASB Trust Board, during my term with her on the Auckland Museum Board. In essence, her advice was this: New Zealand Trusts in general, and the ASB Trust in particular, do not make grants to governmental and quasigovernmental bodies, regardless of whether the government is national or local. The Auckland Museum is eligible for grants even though the bulk of its funding comes from different city councils in the area, because its ownership and management is independent of the councils. In contrast a Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, owned, funded and managed by the ARC, would not be eligible, and it wasn't realistic to have a Visitor Centre owned by the Friends. The Friends however as an independent body would be eligible for grants, as long as the grant was going towards some identifiable project carried out in the name of the Friends, and not just going into the general Gardens funding pool. In practice it has been possible for the Friends, using this path, to make major contributions to the Visitor Centre development. The meeting with Jo Brosnahan went very well, and it is my firm belief that by making her aware of the considerable financial and moral commitment offered by the Friends to the building of a Visitor Centre, we managed to have the Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre pushed significantly up the priority list for ARC funding. It didn't hurt that the Chair of the Parks Committee of the ARC at the time was Bill Burrill, a Friend himself and a dedicated Gardens supporter. Singing the same song together is a good ploy for making your voice heard!

Two things helped at that time to allow the Friends to throw all their support behind the Visitor Centre project. The unexpected bonus of Government funding for the Endangered Plant Garden meant that all the spare effort and energy within the Gardens was being directed at this significant project, not requiring much from the Friends. Other projects planned for Friends support (Coastal Garden, Children's Discovery Garden) had to take a back seat, freeing up all our moral and financial support for the Visitor Centre. I would have liked to have seen the Coastal Garden and Children's Discovery Garden well under way during my term as President, but the Visitor Centre took precedence. Another thing I would have liked to have seen was progressive inclusion of art in the Gardens. A personal letter I sent to Jenny Gibbs, a foremost Auckland art patron, trying to interest her in supporting art development at the Gardens, got a nice response, but a "no thank you". However in 2002 the Friends donated the first major art piece in the Gardens, "Waka", that marks the entrance to the Threatened Plant Garden. Later, Maggie Burrill and Eric Walton made a solid attempt to get statuary in the Gardens, but it has only been with the present Executive that the barrier has finally been broken and we will have a major presentation of art. This is one of many examples we have of Friends' visions taking a long time to reach fruition, and the value of persistence.

The start of my term as Immediate Past President became a hectic one, mainly taken over by the Sound Barrier controversy. I became the Friends' main representative supporting Jack, both with written material and at hearings, in his battle with an increasing tide of ill-informed and unbalanced criticism about it. The basic issue actually began with the Friends. For years through the 90s, the Friends had asked to have a sound barrier installed along the motorway margin adjacent to the Gardens. The problem, simply, was that all of the buildings used for public meetings were along that part of the gardens closest to the motorway,

and the noise was interfering with hearing of lectures and school classes. As part of their development of motorways, the Transit Authority agreed to put up a sound barrier, got resource consent from Manukau City, and built it. In hindsight, the core of the problem was that Manukau City goofed in not making it a notifiable consent so that the public could have had a say before it was built. Once constructed, the wall upset a few but very vocal residents, of whom the most vocal was someone living almost a kilometre away from the wall, who complained that reflected sound was giving him terrible headaches. Studies by sound engineers showed there had been no increase of noise in the suburb as a result of reflected sound from the wall (the hypothesis being put forward), and that there had been a significant noise decrease in the Gardens, but eventually public pressure won over factual information and the wall was pulled down. This was a hugely stressful time for Jack, and I think we are lucky he didn't say "the hell with it" and leave. We still have a problem with lack of good lecture facilities at the Gardens. This is a development I hope I will see under way before the Friends' 30th birthday!

Another chunk of time was spent helping Brian Herbert to look for a replacement for the aging Gardens Kubota tractor that we had been borrowing to run the Wiri Rambler, and which was a decade beyond its use-by date. This involved going as far afield as Pukekohe and Kumeu. Options faced, and topping our priority list at various times, included purchase of a second-hand tractor, an electric power unit, a John Deere all-purpose tractor, until we came back to where we'd started from and bought a new Kubota, the right decision in hindsight. A benefit of all the time spent in selection was that by the time we were ready to buy, we had secured sponsorship from the Lion Foundation. By the way, it's probably worth giving the background to the name of the Wiri Rambler. We decided to hold a competition to name it, with a small selection group making the choice. I wasn't on the committee, and held my suggestions incognito, so was chuffed when one of mine was chosen. The name was derived from "Wiri" to recognise that the Wiri Trust had paid for it and that "Wiri" was the code name for plants (particularly Hebes) bred by the Gardens. And the "Rambler" of course made reference to its ambling pace, and that the far terminus of its run was at the rose garden with its display of ramblers.

Life on the Committee of the Friends was never without jobs to do. Others that I remember being involved in were carrying out a review of the Constitution, running the first photographic competition, driving the Wiri Rambler, making and serving soup for Soup Day, helping with the Sunday Rambles, stuffing the Newsletter, and so on. I do miss the lack of involvement in the day-to-day Gardens affairs now I have moved to the North Shore, though of course the running of the Newsletter is still a reasonably big job. I had intended to keep up some of the day-to-day activity, but I had underestimated the problems with traffic jams facing my route, not just on the Bridge but on Lake Road and Esmonde Road, with road construction thrown in for good measure. If there is one message to come out of my time on the Friends Executive, it is this: many of our successes have taken a long time between desire, planning, then initiation, then wait-a-bits, and finally success. Because there has been a long history of support for and unity of purpose in successive Friends Councils, and a lack of factionalisation, we've got a good history of getting there in the end. Long may it continue!



An Annual General Meeting has been held each February since the inaugural meeting. Following the meeting there has generally been a meal and a speaker.

Topics and speakers have been varied and interesting.

1984: 'Herbs for Use and Delight', Gillian Painter

1985: 'New Zealand Plants in our Gardens - Possibilities for Observation and Diversification', Dr Eric Godley

1986: 'Plant Trekking in East Nepal', Alan Jellyman

1987: 'Gardening for Pleasure', Barbara Matthews

1988: 'Home Garden Maintenance and Container Plants', Trevor Davies

1989: 'Plants and Planet in Peril', Dr David Bellamy

1990: 'Subtropical Gardening - the Brisbane Experience', Ross McKinnon

1991: 'The Language of Flowers', Else Jones

1992: 'The World Grows Around My Door', Dr Rod Bielecki

1993: 'What's Bugging in the Garden', Ruud Kleinpaste

1994: 'Europe and China - Plants and Trends', Jack Hobbs

1995: 'A Lifetime as a Professional Nurseryman and Amateur Sports Administrator', George Rainey

1996: 'Bell, Book and Candle', 13th birthday celebration, with 'Herbs through the Ages', Gillian Painter

1997: No dinner and talk this year

1998: 'Plants that Changed the World', Dr Ross Ferguson

1999: 'Africa Revisited - From the Wurmbeas of the Cape to the Welwitschias of the Namib desert', Steve Benham

2000: 'Light entertainment'

2001: 'Succulents in the Garden', Yvonne Cave

2002: 'Developments at Hamilton Gardens', Mike Geenty

2003: 'Gardens of Auckland', Neil Ross

2004: 'The Long Road to Ellerslie', Cath Handley

2005: Tour of the new Visitor Centre, Jack Hobbs

2006: Guided walks through the most recently developed areas of the Gardens

2007: Gardens 25th Anniversary Commemoration event

2008: Buchanan Award-'Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens, South Africa', Andrea Wright

2009 'What makes a Plants man' Terry Hatch

2010 Buchanan Award-'Kew Gardens' Brooke Stark

2011 Buchanan Award-'RBG Melbourne' Mere Brewer

2012 Buchanan Award-'Yunnan China' Yvonne Etherington

2013 Buchanan Award-'Wisley gardens United Kingdom' Rangi Green

2014 Buchanan Award-'Gardens in America' Denise Peck

2015 Buchanan Award-'Visits to world renowned organic research institutions including the Rodale Institute (USA) and Garden Organic (UK)' Nicola Reynolds

2016 Visit to 'Gardens by the Bay' in Singapore Owen Newson



Executive Presidents

1983- 1985 Mr Philip Hunt
1985- 1987 Mrs LynneTrafford
1987- 1989 Mrs Sheila Weight
1989- 1991 Mr Trevor Davies
1991- 1993 Mrs Holly Roach
1993- 1995 Miss Kathrina Muller
1995- 1997 Mrs Maggie Burrill
1997- 1999 Mr George Rainey
1999-2001 Dr Rod Bieleski
2001 -2003 Mr Terry Hatch
2003-2005 Ms Byrdie Ayres
2005-2006 Mr Terry Becher
2006-2009 Mrs Liz Powell
2009- 2010 Mr Terry Becher
2010- 2013 Mr Graeme Hauer
2013- 2016 Mr Bill Burrill
2016- 2017 Mrs Dianne Glenn

Mr Phillip Hunt 1st President



Friends' Executive: Presidents

The Office Holders and members of the Friends' Executive Committee have initiated or supported many events and schemes in the past 25 years - from organising bus trips and soup days to fund raising for major projects.

Each Presidency has had its own flavour and its own focus. Here, some of the thirteen Presidents who have held office so far talk about the highlights, joys and frustrations, of their terms

Trevor Davies

President 1989 - 1990

Trevor is a member of one of the great plants man dynasties of New Zealand - one of the Davies of Duncan & Davies. He had never intended to follow his father as a nurseryman but almost inevitably ended up going in 1944 to the then Massey University College to undertake a Diploma in Horticultural Science, specialising in nursery practice. It was the second intake of horticultural students for the year and much of the teaching was in army huts. Typically for the period, 20 out of 27 in his class were women.

When he joined the family firm one of his first jobs - part of a separate business - was to collect young native plants from the wild, mainly as small seedlings. He worked for Duncan & Davies for 30 years, 1946-1976, and was managing director for the last 17. He then shifted to Auckland and worked for Zealandia and acted as a consultant to the nursery trade, mentoring many who are now senior nurserymen. In 'retirement', he set up a wisteria nursery in Taranaki. This showed his persistence and his demand for accuracy - he spent many years sorting out the nomenclature of wisterias, recognising synonyms and corresponding with leading authorities around the world. In this way he himself became one of the authorities on wisteria. He still has an affection for wisterias but with a small - and immaculate - suburban garden - has had to develop an interest in vireyas.

It was two 'strong-minded' women, Sue Davison and Sheila Weight, who encouraged him to join the Friends and become Vice-President. He recalls Sue for her work with the Visitors Centre and the Growing Friends and Sheila as a particularly effective Chairman. He remembers Jean Veal and Joan Dingley as effective sparring partners, not ready to compromise, and he has very fond memories of Brian Buchanan, believing that the significance of his role in the Gardens has yet to be properly appreciated.

Trevor enjoyed being on the committee - it was a good committee, readily adjusting to requirements and he is famed - or notorious - for his briskness in running meetings. He enjoyed the camaraderie with other people united by a common interest in horticulture.

The Friends still do many useful things, and have contributed greatly to the development of the gardens through their ability to obtain grants or borrow money but he does feel that over time some of the fun has gone. That is a continuing problem - how to keep volunteers motivated and how to meet the different requirements of members.

(In conversation with Ross Ferguson)

Maggie Burrill:

President 1995 - 1997

When first asked to do an item on my years on the Committee, and as President, I didn't think there would be very much to write about, as I became President just after the completion of the Friends building, and there were no major projects anticipated other than the future Visitors Centre. It proved to be somewhat of a surprise to see just how much the committee achieved in those years.

I joined the Friends in 1990 and was elected to the Executive Committee in 1993 as Vice President with Kathrina Muller in the Chair. During my time in this role I assisted with organising the bus trips, the catering for Soup Day and the AGM, and was an active member of the monthly Plant Group.

I was elected president at the 1995 AGM, an office I held until the 1997 AGM. During that time, I helped with the creation of the Growing Friends in 1996. Based on an idea Brian Buchanan had brought back from a visit to the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens, it was ably led by Kathrina, with assistance from members such as Doug Hunt and John Meyer whose combined knowledge of plant propagation was invaluable to get it off to a good start. This led to the introduction of the Spring and Autumn Plant Sales, which replaced the mid winter perennials sale. The first Autumn Plant sale was held in April 1996, for the first time selling propagated cuttings and seedlings, rather than the bare root perennials we had previously offered.

In 1998, this group was able to provide a glasshouse heating system for the Nursery from the proceeds of sales, as an acknowledgement of the assistance given by Nursery Staff in getting the Growing Friends off the ground. The continued financial success of this operation reiterates the value of the work of this hard working group as over the years it has become a very important fundraiser for Friends. I worked with Sheila Weight on the establishment of the Friends Travel Award (which subsequently became the Buchanan Award) and in 1996 had pleasure in giving the first award to Alex Gardner, Senior Gardener at that time, to enable him to work for 6 weeks at Kew Gardens and to visit a number of other significant gardens in the United Kingdom and Ireland. An annual award, designed to enable staff to undertake research, travel or study where this would benefit the Gardens, it has led to interesting items in 'The Auckland Gardener', and resulted in a number of well attended and interesting illustrated talks from Awardees on their return. The experience gained by awardees continues to demonstrate each year its value since its inception, bringing continued benefits to the Gardens.

The Friends celebrated our 13th Birthday in February 1996 and the catering team led by Nola Dyson and Alison Snow did a brilliant job of converting the Covered Courtyard into a dining hall decorated to the theme of witchcraft — very appropriate given the date and that our guest speaker, the well known Gillian Painter, was to address us on the role of herbs through the ages. From the 'Bell Book and Candle' in front of the speaker's rostrum to Madam Viola, to the witch flying across the moon and the beautifully decorated tables lit by candlelight, the theme of herbs, witches and magic was wonderfully portrayed.

Our gift to the Gardens that year was to be new metal signage for the various collections. The new signboards were to use the metal photo process which enabled detailed line drawings and photos to illustrate the text.

However, it took three years to actually see signs for the upgrading of the Plant collection signboards and the Friends funds were used to create the essential CAD file which formed the basis of the work undertaken by Metal Image, the firm involved. Eventually the hassles were eliminated, and twelve were initially installed, with a further thirteen the following year.

At the meeting which preceded that dinner, Brian Buchanan was awarded Honorary Life Membership for his long and dedicated service and guidance over the years. In 1989, he had been appointed editor of the newsletter, a position he held until his untimely death in October 1996. A valued member of both the Friends and the Executive, his quiet, efficient and pleasant manner was sorely missed.

A Tree planting ceremony in memory of Brian took place the following June, after Soup Day when Jack Hobbs planted in the kauri grove, a young kauri descended from Tane Mahuta.

At our Soup Day in 1996 there was a display of Botanical Art featuring both books from the library and others lent by members of the Library Committee. This stimulated much interest in both the library and its collections, with over 200 people attending over the weekend. We were also pleased to have Sri Kartawiadi (Sri Benham) demonstrating her botanic illustration. This led to a one day 'Botanical Art' workshop with Sri in November of that year, and because of oversubscription, a further workshop in March 1997

Members' requests led to another Botanical Art Workshop with Sri in March 2000, for Friends only, which was again well received. At the request of participants, a regular monthly painting group was established, which continues today, which Sri tutored on a regular basis until her departure in 2006.

The first Group Exhibition took place in 2001, coinciding with the opening of the Threatened Plant Garden and the Spring Plant Sale for that year. The exhibitions provided by members of the Painting Group continue to add interest to the Summer festival and various shows during the year. We were extremely lucky to have a tutor of Sri's calibre to instruct us in such a specialist subject. She had had a painting selected for display at the Missouri Botanic Garden as part of an exhibition of work of scientific illustrators and American botanic artists. Her work was also accepted for an international exhibition 'Flora 2000' at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania. Sri's series of paintings of *Hebe* plants developed at the Gardens, commissioned by the Friends hang in the Reference Library

In 1997, I handed the Presidency over to George Rainey, but continued on the Committee for a number of years concentrating principally on Catering for events and fundraising in the coming years. I had first worked with Sheila Weight as her 'assistant' for the 1993 Soup Day, and it was somewhat of a shock — my sole cooking experience at that stage having been for a maximum of 6 — to find myself responsible for feeding 120. Sheila had done an enormous amount of preparation with the provision of homemade savouries and sweet biscuits to follow. This set an incredibly high standard to meet each year! At that time, Soup Day was combined with the perennial plant sale.

With more than 100 attending each soup day, it became necessary to call on all members of the Committee to assist with the making of soups, and their willing assistance to do so ensured that this remained a successful event. Soup Day became much easier to organize when small gas rings became readily available – there had previously been a lot of work and effort in arranging the delivery of private BBQs to enable all the soups could be adequately heated. In 1998, we invited the full ARC Parks Committee to attend, to give them an opportunity to see what the Friends did. In 1995, we had members of the newly created Friends of Arataki, led by Bill Beveridge, as our guests.

As membership grew, it became necessary to seek other forms of getting members together. We continued with the traditional Winter Soup Day, the late summer Perennial Walk, always good fund raisers and the Birthday Dinner following the AGM which was always run on a 'meeting costs' basis.

In November 1998, the first 'Brunch in the Roses' was held in the Rose Gardens, with the use of the Northern Depot for the preparation of food - the champagne, mini-croissants with a variety of fillings and a variety of fruit to finish were enjoyed by over 100 and a welcome way to once again catch up with each other before the Christmas 'recess'. These became a popular event, even in those years when the weather was not kind, and we had to serve the food in the Covered Courtyard. The Wiri Rambler proved its worth in those years, in taking everyone down to the rose gardens when the weather subsequently cleared. Unfortunately, because of catering restrictions these events had to be restricted to 'Friends and partners only' in subsequent years.

May 1999 saw the first staff appreciation morning tea. Hosted by the Executive Committee, it was enjoyed by all who were able to attend and mix with staff in a more relaxed setting. This was a way of saying thanks for the many unobtrusive ways in which staff helped out – with shifting gear from the Friends building to the covered Courtyard which was then the site of the AGM dinners, soup days etc; assisting with clean up on a few occasions; allowing us the use of the Northern Depot for Brunch in the Roses, ensuring that the required site was always clean and tidy for our events and of course the invaluable help given when the Growing Friends got underway – this was a great way to get to know staff in a relaxed, enjoyable environment.

A number of social evenings (with no work involved by the hard working subcommittee) were held at CHATS, the restaurant attached to MIT and at the first in August 1996, a group of 40 had a very pleasant and relaxed evening.

Other events during 1996 included two afternoon meetings with speakers. The first, held in conjunction with the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture, featured Bronwen Rowse, who spoke on the Gardens of Acadia, New England USA. Her professional presentation and slides illustrated well the magnificent gardens she had visited. This was followed in October, with an illustrated presentation by Michael Lear on Plants and Gardens of the Italian and French Riviera. Each presentation was followed by afternoon tea and a chance for members to chat.

Members of the committee manned a table at a lecture given by David Attenborough at the Museum and assisted in the selling of his new book which added to our funds.

We also introduced that year, a Plant Help Line whereby a number of Friends with specialist/extensive knowledge, made themselves available to pass on advice about plants in their area of expertise.

In October, 1999 I arranged a 'New Friends' lunch of pizza and coffee to provide an opportunity for 'old' Friends to meet those who had newly joined. This proved to be extremely successful, providing as well, a social event for all Friends, and this became the bi-monthly 'Bring a Plate Lunch' which operated after the Rambles. These were initially very popular, with the provision of tea and coffee being the only input required by the Committee.

Similarly, the Christmas pot luck salad and BBQ picnic in the Rose Garden was extremely successful. The Committee provided a BBQ, everyone brought their own meat and a salad or dessert to share, their rugs and collapsible chairs and this provided a great opportunity for mixing and mingling and a popular social event. In the years of heavy fundraising, it became important to occasionally have events which were open to members and their friends which were not fundraisers, or involving a great deal of work for a relatively small subcommittee.

In January 2003, we introduced a replacement for the traditional Perennial Walk when we held a BBQ and Lily Walk at Doug and Judy Hunt's in Ardmore. Both Doug and Judy had been extremely active members of

the Friends, and Doug was extremely proud of his lilies. With catering by the Executive Committee, this proved to be a great fundraiser. This was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a magnificent private garden in a relaxed atmosphere for the more than 40 people who could attend.

With the completion of the redesigned South African garden in late 2003, it was decided to make that garden the feature of the 'Perennial Walk for the following year. In January 2004, we held a South African Brie with the active assistance of Chris Whitby, who helped both with the menu ideas and cooking, the emphasis on South African recipes and meats introducing many to the distinctive South African cuisine. Towards the end of my time on the Committee, a considerable amount of time was expended working with a small subcommittee toward the provision of a Garden Art exhibition within the Gardens. Although at that time, we were unable to produce a result, it has been very pleasing to see that later work has eventuated in the Garden Art exhibition of 2004 and the new exhibition of November 2006.

In preparing this I have become aware, yet again of the valuable information provided through our Newsletter and the previous 'The Auckland Garden' which earlier had been the 'news for the RBG with expert advice on gardening in our region'. In the summer 1997 edition, it was incorporated into our newsletter, and became the name of our publication while still providing the expert advice on Auckland gardening.

In addition, it has brought to the forefront the incredible skills and knowledge of both Friends members and staff, many of whom have received recognition through their professional and 'social' organizations. Along with the tremendous hours put in by our Friends as volunteers working with staff in the Visitors Centre, dead heading, the Plant Evaluation Panels, assisting with the Education programme, there are the hours working on plant sales, plant growing, the Library Committee, those who assisted with rambles on a regular basis, the Wiri Rambler drivers and guides, those who assisted me with the fundraising events already mentioned and ensured they went without a hitch and provided both an enjoyable time for those who attended and funds for the coffers to help towards projects within the gardens. The review has shown what a valuable organisation the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Garden is and the special nature of its membership.

Terry Hatch

President 2001 - 2003

I had been involved with the Botanic Gardens in a plant capacity eg. Plant Panels for a number of years and as I aged I thought of spare time looming ahead! At an AGM of Friends of the Gardens the post of vice president was left vacant and perhaps a mini crisis would result, I decided to stand for the open position, the rest is history some might say even a greater crisis eventuated.

I must say my time with the Friends committee was a time of learning and mostly enjoyment. We made a great deal of money over a short period of time and spent even more on worthwhile projects thanks to the hard work of members.

Most memorable were the bus trips first to the Katikati 2001 Spring Garden Festival visiting gardens not normally open to the public, we filled two buses the spare one with plants.

The October outing 2002 down to Taranaki was a great experience to some iconic gardens the Jury Garden always having plenty of interest to see. At Pukekura Park we were given a historical tour of the greater park by Ken Davey and joined by some of "The Friends of the Park" finishing at the spectacular fernery and what were then the new display glass houses. For some it was a first visit to Pukeiti Rhododendron Gardens situated in the wonderful bush setting on the slopes of Mt. Taranaki.

In 2001 back at Manurewa the Threatend Native Plant Garden took shape and what an asset it is now. To sum up the spare time looming never became a reality and I'm still working full time!

Byrdie Ayres

President 2003 - 2005

Growing up on the eastern seaboard of the US with lilacs, azaleas, peonies, deciduous trees and 'evergreens', many of the plants in Auckland were very exotic to my eye. And where were the seasons, the rush of spring and the full blown summers and crisp autumns with the colourful leaves and the snow on the bones of those bare trees?

I quickly adjusted to the climatic subtleties and love the fact that I could grow frangipani and hibiscus as well as some of the more familiar species. I soon was walking in the bush as everyone seemed to do in the 70s and discovered the NZ flora which has fascinated me ever since; so rich and diverse and exotic to the American eye.

I had visited the Botanic Gardens on numerous occasions before becoming a member of the Friends in the late 90s. I joined the committee and found myself tagged as a vice-president!

I considered myself quite lucky when my turn came to fill the role of president. The Friends were financially well-off having fundraised and saved for a number of years in order to fill the coffers so that when the time came we could make a substantial contribution towards a new visitor centre. And the time did come and we were able to contribute \$150,000 for the wonderful building now known as Huakaiwaka. Many more hundreds of thousands were obtained in the form of grants for educational and promotional materials for the centre.

There were two other highlights during my two years as president.

We secured a grant from the Lion Foundation which enabled the Friends to purchase a new tractor to pull the Wiri Rambler. The Wiri Rambler is a wonderful asset making the Gardens accessible to many who would not otherwise venture much beyond the visitor centre.

The Friends also at that time laid the foundations for the up coming event - the Stoneleigh Sculpture in the Gardens. Crystal ball gazing is a challenging pastime but I believe that these biennial events will change over the longer term, not only the look of the Gardens but also the feel of them. People's experiences will be changed and for those who are willing to linger and absorb should benefit greatly from the added beauty these works will bring.

Terry Becher

President 2005 - 2006

One of my earliest associations with the Botanic Gardens was through the nursery industry and the late Brian Buchanan.

I can recall discussions with Brian, exploring possible ways that the Gardens might work in conjunction with the nursery industry trialling, growing and showcasing new introductions and varieties of shrubs and perennials with a view to propagating and building up numbers of selected varieties which would be sold as growing on lines to participating nurseries.

The thought behind this being a possible way of generating monies for the ongoing development of the Gardens.

While this never came to pass, I must stress that the Botanic Gardens and the nursery industry have always enjoyed a good relationship.

With the formation of the Friends twenty-five years ago, the Botanic Gardens and its development have been supported by countless enthusiastic and dedicated people whose vision, skills, commitment and love of gardening have played a significant part in having such a wonderful asset for generations to come.

Liz Powell

President 2006 - 2008

My first introduction to the Friends was when, a number of years back, I came to a Sunday morning workshop on rose pruning. There I met the ladies who collected the money and provided the tea and biscuits and was given a membership form. I duly signed up and became a regular attendee at Rambles and Workshops and, in time, became one of the money collectors and tea ladies. I also volunteered for library duty - not a duty at all really, more a pleasure to be surrounded by the latest books on plants and gardening and with time to read them in between visitors.

In 2000 I was asked to join the Friends' committee and in 2001 became the Library representative on the committee.

This was an exciting time to be part of the committee - there was the introduction of the Wiri Rambler, planning for and the establishment of the Threatened Native Plant Garden and the Potter Children's Garden, the building of Huakaiwaka and then, over the last two years, work towards the wonderful Stoneleigh Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition - a development from an idea introduced to the committee in 2004 by Eric Walton.

It is a privilege to be President of the Friends. The committee is dedicated to supporting the Gardens in any way that it can and members give their time and energy willingly to ensure the success of projects that they undertake. Members are such interesting people with such a range of backgrounds and knowledge and experience - meeting members at functions and in the volunteer groups is always rewarding, and the Gardens management and staff with all their skills work so hard to make the Gardens the wonderful place they are.

The next twenty-five years will see changes, growth and development, all built on the firm foundation laid over the past twenty-five years. It's very satisfying to be a part of that.



Friends 25th Birthday



Joan Dingley



Byrdie Ayres and Neville Haydon Soup Day 2015



Jack Hobbs with HRH Prince Charles



African Plants at Auckland Botanic Gardens

Executive Committee Members

| | 1983- 1984 | 1984- 1985 |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| President: | Mr Philip Hunt | Mr Philip Hunt |
| Vice President: | Mr Arthur Brown | Mr Arthur Brown |
| Secretary: | Mrs Lynne Trafford | Mrs Lynne Trafford |
| Assist Secretary: | Mrs Helen Keate | Mrs Helen Keate |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Jean Veal | Mrs Jean Veal |
| Committee: | Mr Ian Boyle | Mr Ian Boyle |
| | Mrs Mary Boyle | Mrs Mary Boyle |
| | Mr Dave Bull | Mr Dave Bull |
| | Mrs Phyllis Chapman | Mrs Phyllis Chapman |
| | Mr John Ross | Mr John Ross |
| | Mr Len Williams | Mr Len Williams |
| | | Mrs Holly Roach (co-opted 6/3/84) |
| Ex Officio | Mr Phil Jew | Mr Phil Jew |
| In Attendance | Mr Brian Buchanan | Mr Brian Buchanan |

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-1987 |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Mrs Lynne Trafford | Mrs Lynne Trafford |
| Vice President: | Mr Arthur Brown | Mr Arthur Brown |
| Secretary: | Mr John Ross | Mr John Ross |
| Assist Secretary: | Mrs Helen Keate | Mrs Helen Keate |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Jean Veal | Mrs Jean Veal |
| Committee: | Mrs Lucy Browne | Mrs Lucy Browne |
| | Mr Brian Buchanan | Mr Brian Buchanan |
| | Mrs Phyllis Chapman | Mr Bill Brailey |
| | Miss Joan Dingley | Mrs Zenda Cullen |
| | Mr Phillip Hunt | Miss Joan Dingley |
| | Mrs J Morris | Mr Philip Hunt |
| | Mrs Holly Roach | Mrs Holly Roach |
| | Mrs Sheila Weight | Mrs Sheila Weight |
| | Mr Len Williams | Mr Len Williams |
| Ex Officio | Mr Phil Jew | Mr Phil Jew |

| | 1987- 1988 | 1988-1989 |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Mrs Sheila Weight | Mrs Sheila Weight |
| Vice President: | Mr Arthur Brown | Mr Arthur Brown |
| Secretary: | Mr Tony Trafford | Mr Tony Trafford |
| Assist Secretary: | Mrs Helen Keate | Mrs Helen Keate |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Jean Veal | Mrs Jean Veal |
| Committee: | Mrs Lucy Browne | Mrs Lucy Browne |
| | Mr Brian Buchanan | Mr Brian Buchanan |
| | Mrs Zenda Cullen | Mrs Zenda Cullen |
| | Miss Joan Dingley | Mr Trevor Davies |
| | Mrs Holly Roach | Miss Joan Dingley |
| | Mrs Lynne Trafford | Mrs Holly Roach |
| | Mr Len Williams | Mrs Lynne Trafford |
| | | Mr Len Williams |
| Ex Officio | Mr Phil Jew | Mr Phil Jew |

| | 1989- 1990 | 1990-1991 |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| President: | Mr Trevor Davies | Mr Trevor Davies |
| Vice President: | Mrs Holly Roach | Mrs Holly Roach |
| Secretary: | Mrs Zenda Cullen | Mrs Zenda Cullen (until August) |
| Assist Secretary: | Mrs Helen Keate | |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Jean Veal | Mrs Jean Veal |
| Past President: | | Mrs Sheila Weight |
| Committee: | Mr Arthur Brown | Mr Arthur Brown |
| | Mrs Lucy Browne | Mr Brian Buchanan |
| | Mr Brian Buchanan | Mrs Sue Davison |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Miss Joan Dingley |
| | Miss Joan Dingley | Mr Tom Johnson |
| | Mrs Alison Snow | Mrs Helen Keate |
| | Mrs Sheila Weight | Mrs Alison Snow |
| | Mr Len Williams | Mr Len Williams |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Phil Jew | Mr Phil Jew |

| | 1991-1992 | 1992- 1993 |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Mrs Holly Roach | Mrs Holly Roach |
| Vice President: | Mrs Sheila Weight | Ms Kathrina Muller |
| Secretary: | Mrs Audrey Hawthorne | Mrs Audrey Hawthorne |
| Past President: | Mr Trevor Davies | Mr Trevor Davies |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Jean Veal | Mrs Jean Veal |
| Committee: | Mr Arthur Brown | Mr Arthur Brown |
| | Mr Brian Buchanan | Mrs Lucy Browne |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Mr Brian Buchanan |
| | Miss Joan Dingley | Mrs Sue Davison |
| | Mrs Nola Dyson | Mrs Nola Dyson |
| | Ms Kathrina Muller | Dr Alison Riddell |
| | Mrs Alison Snow | Mrs Alison Snow |
| | Mr Len Williams | Mrs Sheila Weight |
| | | Mr Len Williams |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Phil Jew | Mr Phil Jew |

| | 1993-1994 | 1994- 1995 |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Ms Kathrina Muller | Ms Kathrina Muller |
| Vice President: | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mrs Maggie Burrill |
| Secretary: | Mrs Audrey Hawthorne | Mrs Grace McPeak |
| Past President: | Mrs Holly Roach | Mrs Holly Roach |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Jean Veal | Mr John Ross |
| Committee: | Mr Arthur Brown | Mr Brian Buchanan |
| | Mrs Lucy Browne | Mr Trevor Davies |
| | Mr Brian Buchanan | Mrs Sue Davison |
| | Mr Trevor Davies | Mrs Nola Dyson |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Mrs Audrey Hawthorne |
| | Mrs Nola Dyson | Mrs Donna Jarman |
| | Mrs Alison Snow | Mrs Alison Snow |
| | Mrs Sheila Weight | Mrs Sheila Weight |
| | Mr Len Williams | Mr Len Williams |
| Ex Officio | Mr Rob Small (from 1/4/93) | Mr Rob Small |

| | 1995-1996 | 1996 1997 |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mrs Maggie Burrill |
| Vice President: | Mr Trevor Davies | Mrs Grace McPeak |
| Secretary: | Mrs Grace McPeak | Mrs Mary Lewin |
| Past President: | Ms Kathrina Muller | Ms Kathrina Muller |
| Treasurer: | Mr John Ross | Mr John Ross |
| Committee: | Mr Brian Buchanan | Mr Brian Buchanan |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Mr Trevor Davies |
| | Mrs Nola Dyson | Mrs Sue Davison |
| | Mrs Shirley Finnel | Mrs Nola Dyson |
| | Mrs Audrey Hawthorne | Mrs Shirley Finnel |
| | Mrs Pat Herbet | Mrs Audrey Hawthorne |
| | Mrs Donna Jarman | Mrs Pat Herbert |
| | Mrs Mary Lewin | Mrs Donna Jarman |
| | Mrs Alison Snow | Mrs Alison Snow |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Rob Small | Mr Rob Small |

| | 1997-1998 | 1998- 1999 |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| President: | Mr George Rainey | Mr George Rainey |
| Vice President: | Dr Rod Bieleski | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| Secretary: | Mrs Mary Lewin | Mrs Mary Lewin |
| Past President: | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mrs Maggie Burrill |
| Treasurer: | Mr John Ross | Mr John Ross |
| Committee: | Mr Trevor Davies | Mrs Mary Colquhoun |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Mr Trevor Davies |
| | Mrs Shirley Finnel | Mrs Shirley Finnel |
| | Mr Ormonde Foster | Mr Ormonde Foster |
| | Mrs Marion Hendry | Mrs Marion Hendry |
| | Mrs Donna Jarman | Mrs Donna Johnson |
| | Mr John Meyer | Mrs Jacci Jones |
| | Ms Kathrina Muller | Mrs Kathrina Muller |
| | Mrs Alison Snow | Mrs Alison Snow |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Rob Small | Mr Rob Small |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |

| | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| President: | Dr Rod Bieleski | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| Vice President: | Mr Terry Hatch | Mr Terry Hatch |
| Secretary: | Mrs Marion Hendry | Mrs Marion Hendry |
| Past President: | Mr George Rainey | Mr George Rainey |
| Treasurer: | Mr James McCullagh | Mr James McCullagh |
| Committee: | Mr Aaron Bombardien | Mrs Maggie Burrill |
| | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mr Trevor Davies |
| | Mr Trevor Davies | Mrs Shirley Finnel |
| | Mr Shirley Finnel | Mr Ormonde Foster (died 1/7/00) |
| | Mr Ormonde Foster | Mr Doug Hunt (co-opted 7/8/00) |
| | Mrs Donna Jarman | Mrs Donna Jarman |
| | Mrs Jacci Jones | Mrs Jacci Jones |

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Ms Kathrina Muller | Ms Kathrina Muller |
| | Mrs Shona Pitcaithly | Mrs Shona Pitcaithly |
| | | Mrs Liz Powell |
| Ex Officio | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |

| | 2001 -2002 | 2002-2003 |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Mr Terry Hatch | Mr Terry Hatch |
| Vice President: | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| Secretary: | Mrs Marion Hendry | Mrs Marion Hendry |
| Past President: | Dr Rod Bieleski | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| Treasurer: | Mr Chris Webb | Mr Chris Webb |
| Committee: | Mr Trevor Davies | Mr Trevor Davies |
| | Mr Brian Herbert | Mrs Pam Hatch |
| | Mr Doug Hunt | Mr Brian Herbert |
| | Ms Kathrina Muller | Mr Doug Hunt |
| | Mrs Shona Pitcaithly | Mrs Shona Pitcaithly |
| | Mrs Liz Powell | Mrs Liz Powell |
| | Mr George Rainey | Mr George Rainey |
| | | Mr Fred Simpson |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Lance Vervoort | Mr Lance Vervoort |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |

| | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| Vice President: | Mr Terry Becher | Mr Terry Becher |
| Secretary: | Mrs Marion Hendry | Mrs Marion Hendry |
| Past President: | Mr Terry Hatch | Mr Terry Hatch |
| Treasurer: | Mr Chris Webb | Mrs Madeleine Haigh |
| Committee: | Dr Rod Bieleski | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mr Brian Herbert |
| | Mr Brian Herbert | Mrs Barbara Morris |
| | Mr Doug Hunt | Mrs Barbara Myron |
| | Mrs Liz Powell | Mrs Liz Powell |
| | Mr Fred Simpson | Mr Fred Simpson |
| | Dr Eric Walton | Mrs Margaret Vincent |
| | | Dr Eric Walton |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |

| | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Mr Terry Becher | Mrs Liz Powell |
| Vice President: | Mrs Liz Powell | |
| Secretary: | Mrs Jane Drummond | Mrs Jane Drummond |
| Past President: | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Mr Terry Becher |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Madeleine Haigh | Mr Neville Haydon |
| Committee: | Mr Terry Hatch | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Mr Graeme Hauer | Mr Graeme Hauer |
| | Mrs Marion Hendry | Mrs Barbara Morris |
| | Mr Brian Herbert | Mrs Barbara Myron |
| | Mrs Barbara Morris | Mr Warren Taylor |
| | Mrs Barbara Myron | |
| | Mr Fred Simpson | |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| Administration: | | Mrs Mirian Corbett |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|

| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Mrs Liz Powell | Mrs Liz Powell |
| Vice President: | | |
| Secretary: | Mrs Barbara Myron | Mrs Barbara Myron |
| Past President: | Mr Terry Becher | Mr Terry Becher |
| Treasurer: | Mr Neville Haydon | Mr Neville Haydon |
| Committee: | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Mr Graeme Hauer | Mr Graeme Hauer |
| | Mrs Barbara Morris | Mrs Barbara Morris |
| | Mr Clayton Pinkney | Mr Clayton Pinkney |
| | Mr Warren Taylor | Mr Fred Simpson |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| Administration: | Mrs Mirian Corbett | Mrs Mirian Corbett |

| | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Mr Terry Becher | Mr Graeme Hauer |
| Vice President: | Mr Graeme Hauer | |
| Secretary: | Mrs Barbara Myron | Mrs Barbara Myron |
| Past President: | Mrs Liz Powell | Mr Terry Becher |
| Treasurer: | Mr Neville Haydon | Mr Neville Haydon |
| Committee: | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Ms Yvonne Dion | Ms Yvonne Dion |
| | Mr Ross Ferguson | Mr Ross Ferguson |
| | Mrs Barbara Morris | Mrs Barbara Morris |
| | Mr Fred Simpson | Mrs Liz Powell |
| | Ms Diana Tormey | Mr Fred Simpson |
| | | Ms Diana Tormey |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| Administration: | Mrs Mirian Corbett | Mrs Mirian Corbett |

| | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Mr Graeme Hauer | Mr Graeme Hauer |
| Vice President: | | Mr Bill Burrill |
| Secretary: | Mrs Barbara Myron | Mrs Barbara Myron |
| Past President: | Mr Terry Becher | Mr Terry Becher |
| Treasurer: | Mr Neville Haydon | Mr Neville Haydon |
| Committee: | Mr Bill Burrill | Mr Ross Ferguson |
| | Ms Yvonne Dion | Mrs Dianne Glenn |
| | Mr Ross Ferguson | Ms Laure Lamason |
| | Mrs Dianne Glenn | Mrs Liz Powell |
| | Mrs Barbara Morris | |
| | Mrs Liz Powell | |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| Administration: | Mrs Mirian Corbett | Mrs Mirian Corbett |

| | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Mr Bill Burrill | Mr Bill Burrill |
| Vice President: | Mrs Dianne Glenn | Mrs Dianne Glenn |
| Secretary: | Mrs Barbara Myron | Mrs Mirian Corbett |
| Past President: | Mr Graeme Hauer | Mr Graeme Hauer |

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Treasurer: | Mr Neville Haydon | Mr Neville Haydon |
| Committee: | Mr Terry Becher | Mr Terry Becher |
| | Mr Ross Ferguson | Mr Ross Ferguson |
| | Ms Laure Lamason | Mrs Heather Hine |
| | Mrs Liz Powell | Ms Laure Lamason |
| | | Mrs Liz Powell |
| | | Ms Jan Sutherland |
| | | Mrs Annette Toon |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| Administration: | Mrs Mirian Corbett | Mrs Mirian Corbett |

| | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| President: | Mr Bill Burrill | Mrs Dianne Glenn |
| Vice President: | Mrs Dianne Glenn | Mrs Liz Powell |
| Secretary | Ms Jan Sutherland | Ms Jan Sutherland |
| Past President: | Mr Graeme Hauer | Mr Bill Burrill |
| Treasurer: | Mrs Judy Williams | Mrs Judy Williams |
| Committee: | Mr Terry Becher | Mr Terry Becher |
| | Mr Ross Ferguson | Ms Claire Cuneen |
| | Mrs Heather Hine | Mr Ross Ferguson |
| | Ms Laure Lamason | Mr Graeme Hauer |
| | Mrs Liz Powell | Mrs Heather Hine |
| | Mrs Annette Toon | Ms Jenny Hunt |
| | | Ms Laure Lamason |
| | | Ms Kate Moodie |
| | | Mrs Annette Toon |
| Ex Officio: | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| Administration: | Mrs Jill Wheeler | Mrs Jill Wheeler |

Trustees

| | 1983-1984 | 1984-1985 |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr Fred Barber | Mr Fred Barber |
| | Mr Thomas Longuet-Higgins | Mr Thomas Longuet-Higgins |
| | Sir Lloyd Elsmore | Sir Lloyd Elsmore |
| | Mr Philip Hunt | Mr Philip Hunt |

| | 1985-1986 | 1986- 1987 |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr Fred Barber | Mr Fred Barber |
| | Mr Thomas Longuet-Higgins | Mr Thomas Longuet-Higgins |
| | Sir Lloyd Elsmore | Miss Joan Dingley |
| | Miss Joan Dingley | Mrs Bev McConnell |
| | Mrs Lynne Trafford | Mrs Lynne Trafford |

| | 1987- 1988 | 1988-1989 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr John Pettit | Mr John Pettit |
| | Mr Alan Brewster | Mr Alan Brewster |
| | Mrs Bev McConnell | Mrs Bev McConnell |
| | Miss Joan Dingley | Mrs Jean Veal |
| | Mrs Sheila Weight | Mrs Sheila Weight |

| | 1989-1990 | 1990-1991 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr Trevor Davies | Mr Trevor Davies |
| | Mr John Pettit | Mr John Pettit |
| | Ms Judith Tizard | Ms Judith Tizard |
| | Mrs Jean Veal | Mrs Jean Veal |
| | Mrs Lynne Trafford | Mrs Lynne Trafford |

| | 1991- 1992 | 1992-1993 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mrs Lynne Trafford | Mrs Lynne Trafford |
| | Mr David Olsen | Mr David Olsen |
| | Mr John Pettit | Mr John Pettit |
| | Cr Joy Oxford | Cr Joy Oxford |
| | Mrs Jean Veal | Mr Douglas Kingett |
| | Mrs Holly Roach | Mrs Holly Roach |

| | 1993- 1994 | 1994-1995 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chairperson: | Cr Mike Lee | Cr Mike Lee |
| | Cr Bill Burrill | Cr Bill Burrill |
| | Cr Caroline Kaa | Cr Caroline Kaa |
| | Mr Douglas Kingett | Mrs Sheila Weight |
| | Mrs Sheila Weight | Mrs Lynne Trafford |
| | Ms Kathrina Muller | Ms Kathrina Muller |

| | 1995-1996 | 1996- 1997 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mrs Sheila Weight | Mrs Sheila Weight |
| | Cr Mike Lee | Cr Gwen Bull |
| | Cr Bill Burrill | Cr Bill Burrill |
| | Cr Caroline Kaa | Cr Fred Anderson |
| | Mrs Lynne Trafford | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mrs Lynne Trafford |
| | | Mrs Maggie Burrill |

| | 1997- 1998 | 1998-1999 |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr Phil Jew | Mr Phil Jew |
| | Cr Gwen Bull | Cr Bill Burrill |
| | Cr Bill Burrill | Cr Gwen Bull |
| | Cr Fred Anderson | Cr Fred Anderson |
| | Dr Rod Bieleski | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| | Mr George Rainey | Mr George Rainey |

| | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr Phil Jew | Mr George Rainey |
| | Cr Bill Burrill | Cr Bill Burrill |
| | Cr Gwen Bull | Cr Gwen Bull |
| | Cr Fred Anderson | Cr Fred Anderson |
| | Dr Rod Bieleski | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| | Mr George Rainey | Mr Phil Jew |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |

| | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr George Rainey | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Cr Bill Burrill | Cr Bill Burrill |
| | Cr Gwen Bull | Cr Gwen Bull |
| | Cr Fred Anderson | Cr Fred Anderson |
| | Dr Rod Bieleski | Dr Rod Bieleski |
| | Mr Terry Hatch | Mr Terry Hatch |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| | Mrs Mary Lewin(Secretary) | Mrs Mary Lewin(Secretary) |

| | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Cr Bill Burrill | Cr Bill Burrill |
| | Cr Dianne Glenn | Cr Dianne Glenn |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Mrs Sue Davison |
| | Mr Fred Simpson | Mr Fred Simpson |
| | | Mrs Madeleine Haigh |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| | Mrs Mary Lewin (Secretary) | Mrs Mary Lewin (Secretary) |

| | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr Terry Becher | Mrs Liz Powell |
| | Cr Sandra Coney | Cr Sandra Coney |
| | Cr Dianne Glenn | Cr Dianne Glenn |
| | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Mrs Sue Davison |
| | Mrs Madeleine Haigh | Mr Neville Haydon |
| | Mr Fred Simpson | Mr Fred Simpson |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| | Mrs Mary Lewin (Secretary) | Mrs Mary Lewin (Secretary) |

| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mrs Liz Powell | Liz Powell |
| | Cr Sandra Coney | Cr Sandra Coney |
| | Cr Dianne Glenn | Cr Dianne Glenn |
| | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Mrs Sue Davison | Mrs Maggie Burrill |
| | Mr Neville Haydon | Ross Ferguson |
| | Mr Fred Simpson | Mr Neville Haydon |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) |

| | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Mr Terry Becher | Graeme Hauer |
| | Cr Sandra Coney | Cr Sandra Coney |
| | Cr Dianne Glenn | Cr Dianne Glenn |
| | Ms Byrdie Ayres | Ms Byrdie Ayres |
| | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mr Terry Becher |
| | Ross Ferguson | Mrs Maggie Burrill |
| | Mr Neville Haydon | Ross Ferguson |
| | Mrs Liz Powell | Mr Neville Haydon |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) |

| | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Graeme Hauer | Graeme Hauer |
| | Mr Terry Becher | Cr Sandra Coney |
| | Mrs Maggie Burrill | Mr Terry Becher |
| | Ross Ferguson | Ms Colleen Brown |
| | Mr Neville Haydon | Mrs Maggie Burrill |
| | | Ross Ferguson |
| | | Mr Neville Haydon |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) |

| | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Bill Burrill | Bill Burrill |
| | Dianne Glenn | Dianne Glenn |
| | Graeme Hauer | Graeme Hauer |
| | Ross Ferguson | Neville Haydon |
| | Neville Haydon | Danella McCormick(LB) |
| | Danella McCormick(LB) | Barbara Myron |
| | Angela Cunningham-Merino(LB) | Wayne Walker(Council) |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) | Mrs Mirian Corbett (Secretary) |

| | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Chairperson: | Bill Burrill | Dianne Glenn |
| Treasurer | Judy Williams | Judy Williams |
| | Dianne Glenn | Bill Burrill |
| | Graeme Hauer | Graeme Hauer |
| | Barbara Myron | Danella McCormick(LB) |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Danella McCormick(LB) | Barbara Myron |
| | Wayne Walker(Council) | Wayne Walker(Council) |
| | Mr Jack Hobbs | Mr Jack Hobbs |
| Secretary | Mrs Jill Wheeler | Mrs Jill Wheeler |

Honorary Life Members

1987 Miss Joan Dingley (died 2008)

1991 Mrs Jean Veal (died 2004)

1992 Mrs Joy Amos (died 2011), Mrs Lynne Trafford

1993 Mr Phil Jew

1994 Mrs Holly Powley (Roach)

1995 Mrs Sue Davison, Mrs Sheila Weight

1996 Mr Brian Buchanan (died 1996)

1999 Miss Alice McNaughton (died 2002)

2001 Dr Graham Robertson, Mr George Rainey (died 2003)

2002 Mrs Maggie Burrill, Mr Jack Hobbs

2003 Miss Kathrina Muller

2004 Dr Rod Bieleski

2005 Mrs Pam Scott, Mrs Mary Lewin

2007 Mr Terry & Mrs Pam Hatch, Mr Steve & Mrs Sri Benham

2008 Mrs Bev McConnell

2009 Ms Byrdie Ayres, Ms Doreen Briggs (died 2015), Ms Mary Colquhoun, Mr Trevor Davies

2010 Mrs Liz Powell, Mr Roger Price

2011 Ms Eleanor Lane, Mr Bill Burrill

2012 Mrs Pat Shaddick

2013 Mr Neville Haydon

2014 Mr Graeme Hauer

2015 Mr Neil and Mrs Jeanette McCarthy

2016 Mr Terry Becher



Joan Dingley



Brian Buchanan with Maggie Burrill

Life members of the Friends

The primary function of the Friends is to "promote and support the development of the Auckland Botanic Gardens". A society such as the Friends depends on the voluntary efforts of its members. We have indeed been fortunate in having so many members who have been prepared to contribute so willingly to the improvement and the development of the Gardens. Life Membership of the Friends is bestowed upon those who "have given service to the Gardens over a period". All our Life Members have contributed in many different ways but they have in common a sense of civic duty, a commitment to the Gardens and an enthusiasm for sharing with others the pleasure that they get from plants and from gardening. We acknowledge their efforts and thank them for what they have done for us and for the Gardens. It is humbling to see how much they and all the other volunteers have achieved. The following are citations delivered when the members were elected.

Miss Joan Dingley OBE (elected 1987, died 2008)

It is fitting that Miss Dingley was our first Life Member to be elected as her association with the Gardens started way back in 1964 when the property was first being considered for development as a botanic garden. Joan had joined Plant Diseases Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1941 after completing her degree at Auckland University College. Her scientific career culminated in her being elected an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and being awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science by Massey University. At Plant Diseases Division, she had worked on the taxonomy of fungi pathogenic on plants. Her research demanded a good knowledge of the hosts as well as the fungi that attacked them. In this way she acquired a formidable knowledge of both native and introduced plants. She was therefore in a good position to advise when she served on the Gardens Technical Advisory Committee from 1975 to 1982. In December, 1981 she was appointed Chair of the New Zealand Native Plant Evaluation Panel which provided advice and evaluations of native plants and prepared a series of advisory leaflets. In 1985 she was elected a Trustee and she also served on the Friends' Executive. Joan is an enthusiastic gardener and she has assisted the Friends in many ways, supporting the garden rambles, selling plants and manning the Information Centre at weekends. She has also been a most generous supporter of the Library, donating many books and three of our prints, one from the Banks *Florilegium* and two wonderful images from the *Atlas Botanique de Voyage de L'Astrolabe*, the account of the French journey of exploration led by Dumont D'urville.

Mrs Jean Veal (elected 1991, died 2004)

Jean Veal was one of the staunchest and best loved supporters of the Botanic Gardens. Her passion for gardening began in her childhood and remained with her for the rest of her life. She had an abiding enthusiasm for plants and was an active member of many specialist plant groups and a keen member of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, of which she was elected an Associate of Honour. Jean started contributing special plants to the Gardens even before it was open to the public. In 1982, she served on the committee planning the official opening and the following year, she was elected to the steering committee when the Friends were established as an organisation. She was Treasurer for seven years and her record keeping and financial books were immaculate. She was also much involved in other activities of the Friends such as the plant sales tables, census taking and the checking of plant names. She had an exceptional knowledge of plants and this allowed her to contribute much to the Shrub Evaluation Panel. She was a stickler for accuracy and was not afraid of expressing her views — she relished a good argument, particularly on the correct identification and nomenclature of a particular plant. Despite increasing ill health in her later years, she retained a lively interest in the Gardens and all things horticultural. Jean is commemorated by a seat at the end of the Pohutukawa Walk – the plaque on the seat has the fitting words, '*A lover of words, flowers and forests.*'

Mrs Joy Amos (elected 1992, died)

Joy Amos immigrated to New Zealand in 1958 and on her arrival took a job with the Department of Agriculture as an instructor in horticulture. In theory, she was to specialise in ornamental horticulture (and this and floriculture are her own personal preferences), but, inevitably her official duties covered almost every aspect of horticulture. From 1971 until 1982 she served on the Botanic Gardens Technical Advisory

Committee as the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture but she continued her association with the Gardens after her retirement in 1981. She has been a member of the Friends since its inception. She served on the Shrub Evaluation Panel and for many years chaired the Perennial Plant Evaluation Committee. Her expert horticultural knowledge coupled with her love of plants and of gardening made her most effective in this role. She assisted by providing plant material for the sales table and was a regular contributor to the newsletter. She also generously donated books and periodicals to the Library. In 1981, Joy was elected an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture because of her distinguished contributions to horticulture.

Mrs Lynne Trafford (elected 1992)

Lynne Trafford and her husband attended the public meeting on 25 February, 1983 that resulted in the formation of the Friends. At the inaugural Annual General Meeting, she was elected Secretary, a position she retained until she became President in 1985. Subsequently she was elected a Trustee in 1989 and in 1991 was elected Chair of the Trustees. Lynne fostered the idea of regular birthday presents to the Gardens from the Friends and she started the tradition of annual spring bus trips for members. Lynne's outstanding achievement was when she was Chair of the fundraising committee for the Library. She tackled this job with dedication and enthusiasm and was largely responsible for obtaining large grants from the Auckland Savings Bank Community Trust and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board, thus making the project feasible.

Mr Phil Jew MBE (elected 1993)

Phil Jew was Manager of Parks and Reserves, Auckland Regional Authority from 1966 until his retirement in 1992. During this period, he oversaw the purchase and development of a chain of regional parks, a marvellous and much appreciated resource for the citizens of the Auckland region. A consummate master of the black art of encouraging local body politicians towards making the right decisions, Phil played an essential role in ensuring that these parks were preserved for the future. He has long had a special fondness for the Botanic Gardens. He managed the project which started with the purchase of a block of farmland and opened to the public in 1982. Phil also realised the enormous political value of a committed group of supporters and he instigated the formation of the Friends in 1983 and he continued to give the new group support and advice while serving as an ex officio member of the Friends Executive for ten years. He has also been active in his support for horticulture in general, as a member of the inaugural committee which established Eden Gardens, teaching night classes in horticulture, giving a series of radio talks and organising practical examinations for the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, of which he was elected an Associate of Honour in 1983.

Mrs Holly Powley (elected 1994)

Holly is probably better remembered by many of us as Holly Roach. She has been a member of the Friends since 1983 and was co-opted onto the committee in 1984, and served for more than 10 years, including a term as President and then as a Trustee. When she joined the committee, she claimed not to know much about gardening but she certainly knew how to encourage social functions and fellowship amongst the Friends and she was tireless in her promotion of the building and completion of the Library. Holly now lives in the United Kingdom but still maintains an interest in the Gardens, visiting us whenever she returns to New Zealand.

Mrs Sue Davison QSM (elected 1995)

Sue Davison's association with the Botanic Gardens resulted from her membership of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, of which she is now an Associate of Honour. She represented the Institute at the ceremonial "first turning of the sod" in 1987, that marked the long-awaited birth of Auckland's botanic garden, and she was the Institute's nominee on the Botanic Gardens Technical Advisory Committee from 1978-1981. Sue was a foundation member of the Friends in 1983 and in 1989 she joined the Executive. She was hardworking and effective, assisting with the organisation of the sales tables and catering for the first perennial walks. She took over the responsibility for the Visitor Centre roster in 1992 and for the Library roster in 1993. Sue, however, is much more than just an organiser and she serves as an

example, probably having done more than any other member to ensure that the Library and the reception desk are always staffed. She is also one who takes the initiative and ensures that things are done: if there is a need, Sue is there. After retiring from the Executive, she retained her links with the Gardens by becoming a Trustee, a position that she still holds and in which her common sense and her insistence of value for money are much valued. She has also led the Growing Friends for the past years. Sue is another of those hard working volunteers who have done so much to promote and support the development of the Gardens and her efforts were acknowledged by the well-deserved award of the Queen's Service Medal for Community Service in 2004.

Mrs Sheila Weight MNZM JP (elected 1995)

Mrs Weight was a member of the Auckland Regional Authority and a member of the Regional Parks Committee when the Friends were established. She was elected to the Executive in 1985 and served for more than ten years including a term as President from 1987 to 1989. While on the Executive she was, for many years, in charge of catering, a task that her organisational skills and knowledge made appear deceptively easy. In 1993 she was elected a Trustee and also served a term as Chair of the Trustees. Sheila is a very experienced local politician and she has worked with many voluntary organisations and committees. This experience was invaluable when she assisted in the rewriting of the constitution of the Friends. She is another of those hardworking members, always available to help when requested and she has been an excellent role model, doing not talking.

Mr Brian Buchanan (elected 1996, died 1996)

Brian Buchanan was appointed Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens in 1974. The first eight years in this position were spent overseeing the transformation of farmland into the garden that was opened to the public in 1982. Brian actively encouraged the formation of the Friends in 1983 as he realised the invaluable support that such a group could provide. He attended all the meetings of the Executive and in 1985 was elected to the committee in his own right and remained a member until his death. Brian saw education as a vital role of the Gardens and he organised the rambles and the Home Garden Design and Maintenance Programmes. Likewise, he was editor for many years of the Friends Newsletter and *The Auckland Garden*, the newsletter of the Botanic Gardens. Brian was outwardly a calm man whose unflustered planning and organisational skills contributed greatly to the success of the Friends functions. He played a significant role in Auckland horticulture, as Superintendent of the Gardens, as a member of many horticultural groups and through his long association with the Friends. His managerial skills, his enthusiasm and his ability to enthuse others helped bring the Gardens to meet their aim of being a 'regional centre for the display, study, conservation and enjoyment of plants'.

Sadly, Brian's many achievements and contributions were publicly recognised only in the last year of his tragically shortened life when he was elected a Life Member of the Friends, a Life Member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of New Zealand and an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. Brian's funeral was held and his ashes were scattered in the Gardens to which he had contributed so much — the great achievement of his life. He is commemorated in the Buchanan Award, funded by the Friends and allowing members of the Garden staff to get overseas experience, thereby benefiting the Gardens.

Miss Alice McNaughton (elected 1999, died 2002)

Miss McNaughton was a resident of Elmwood Village, a retirement home close to the Botanic Gardens. Her association with the Friends started in the early 1990s when the Daycare Centre of Elmwood Village offered assistance from the residents. Miss McNaughton was asked to organise a group to prepare the Friends newsletter for posting out. This is no small task as we send out nearly 700 copies of each issue, five times a year. Miss McNaughton and her team of helpers did a wonderful job for us, labeling the envelopes, folding the newsletters and inserting all the extras. Nor was that their only task: Miss McNaughton also did much of the work preparing 70 folders for the Rose Day judges as well as organising other post-outs from the Friends. Miss McNaughton had a special love of trees and our native bush. We were indeed fortunate that in her retirement she was able to contribute so much to our society and to the Gardens.

Mr George Rainey (elected 2001, died 2003)

George Rainey was one of the most influential figures in the development of the Botanic Gardens. For 21 years, from 1982, he was Chairman of the Tree and Shrub Advisory Panel, bringing to it an immense knowledge of woody plants accumulated during his long and distinguished career as a nurseryman. He joined the Friends in 1983 and served as President in 1997 and 1998, and was subsequently Chairman of the Trustees in 2000 and 2001. George was very experienced as a rugby league administrator and as a leading figure in the Nurserymen's Association, and was therefore a particularly skilled Chairman renowned for his abhorrence of long committee meetings. He was also very effective as Chairman of the Development Plan Working Group set up in 1997 to produce recommendations on the future direction and development of the Gardens. He strongly supported the fundraising by the Friends and their contribution to the new Visitor Centre. His many contributions to the Gardens are acknowledged in the bronze sculpture "Turn" by Richard Mathieson at the end of the Pohutukawa Walk.

Dr Graham Robertson (elected 2001)

Graham Robertson has contributed greatly to the improvement and development of the Botanic Gardens for nearly 30 years: as a member of the evaluation panels, assisting with the editing of the advisory leaflets, working in the Visitor Centre and answering technical questions, and being much involved with the library. Graham was, by profession, a plant pathologist and mycologist with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and his expert scientific knowledge of plants and plant diseases combined with his hands-on experience as a keen gardener mean that he can advise with authority. He also was able to make a significant contribution in checking plant names for the database. Graham is very much one who gets stuck in and ensures that things are done, and, even more important, done properly.

Mr Jack Hobbs (elected 2002)

Jack is a plants man: he has a love of plants, an expert knowledge of plants and the ability to write about plants, thereby sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm. For many years he has contributed regularly to the *New Zealand Gardener* emphasising the horticultural merits of available species and cultivars. In collaboration with Terry Hatch he wrote *Bulbs for New Zealand Gardeners and Collectors*, a book that received outstanding reviews. Today, more and more gardeners get their information from radio or television and Jack is equally adept at communicating through these media as he is through the printed word and photography or the spoken word: he is a stimulating public speaker. He is also well known and respected as a plant breeder, especially for his Wiri series of *Hebe*. His success demonstrates his ability to formulate clear aims and his skill in recognising quality in a plant. His contributions to horticulture were recognised by his being elected an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture in 1996.

Jack has made huge contributions to the Gardens and to the Friends. He joined the Friends in 1989, shortly after he was appointed Curator and in 1997 he was made Curator-Manager. He can be proud of the advances that the Gardens have made under his leadership and it is remarkable what the staff have managed to achieve. He has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Friends attending general and Executive meetings whenever possible, writing regularly for the newsletter and *The Auckland Garden* and pushing through to completion many of the projects initiated or supported by the Friends.

Mrs Maggie Burrill (elected 2002)

Maggie Burrill joined the Friends in 1990 and was elected to the Executive in 1993 as Vice-President and was subsequently President from 1995-1997. Her legal background meant that things were done properly and she was always keen to ensure that our hard-gained funds were spent to best advantage. During her term of office, she organised bus trips, assisted with catering at functions, helped with the creation of the Growing Friends and assisted in the Spring and Autumn plant sales, now very important as sources of revenue. She also worked on the establishment of the Friends Travel Award (now the Buchanan Award). After she stepped down as President she took over the daunting task of catering coordinator and many of the popular functions she organised were valuable in bringing together the Friends and members of the Gardens staff. Maggie's husband, Bill, is a longtime member of the Auckland Regional Council: the Gardens

have benefited from his support and the Friends have enjoyed his company at our various functions.

Ms Kathrina Muller (elected 2002)

Kathrina has made huge contributions to the Botanic Gardens over the last 20 years, particularly because of her enthusiasm for plants and her professional expertise in horticulture as shown by her completing the Certificate and then the National Diploma in Horticulture. She joined the Friends Committee in 1991 with special responsibility for the Trading Table. In 1992, she was elected Vice President and in 1993 and 1994 was President. In 1993, she was instrumental in arranging for surplus perennials from the Gardens being offered for sale to members of the Friends, the forerunner of the Autumn and Spring Plant Sales. In 1995, she established the "Growing Friends" with the aim of offering for sale well-grown but unusual or seldom-sold plants. The Growing Friends have gone on from strength to strength, making available specialist plants not readily obtainable from most commercial nurseries and proving highly successful in raising funds for the Friends. During Kathrina's term of office, a notable bonus, "two for the price of one", was her partner, Phil, who was of great assistance in the organisation of the Friends' functions.

Dr Rod Bielecki (elected 2004)

Professionally, Rod was a prominent scientist with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, mainly working in plant physiology and biochemistry, but he has retained an active interest in horticulture in general. At their home in Redoubt Road, just north of the Gardens he assisted his wife Val in developing a showpiece garden. He may have been under close supervision in the garden but he was undoubtedly master in the glasshouse, developing a particular interest in orchids and then more recently in begonias. He has been a committed member of many horticultural societies especially the New Zealand Camellia Society of which he is Registrar and an Honorary Life Member and he is an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. In the words of the citation when he was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Friends, *'The underlying theme...has been a passion for plants – growing them, knowing about them and teaching about them.'* Rod's interest in the Gardens was stimulated by colleagues such as Joan Dingley and Jim Hunter, by Professor Val Chapman and by a neighbour Harry Beaumont (commemorated in the Beaumont Entrance). He became associated with the Advisory Committee responsible for planting of the Gardens and for seven years he was a member. He and Val were Foundation Members of the Friends and from 1996 onwards he was variously a member of the committee, Vice President, President and then Trustee. He was much involved with promoting the Wiri Rambler, prepared many submissions on behalf of the Friends and has been editor of the newsletter for a remarkable ten years.

Mrs Mary Lewin (elected 2005)

Mary and Harry Lewin joined the Friends in 1990: they had recently built a house in Redoubt Road and were looking for ideas on how to develop their garden. In 1991 Mary volunteered to help in the Visitor Centre and continued to assist for almost ten years. In 1994 she was persuaded to join the Executive and was secretary from 1996 to 1999, and proved herself to be both competent and well organised. While on the Executive she became involved in a variety of activities and is still one of those involved in selling plants at the rambles and at the Autumn and Spring sales – as well as assisting with all the hard work involved in setting up such sales. In January 1991, she agreed to take on the role of Secretary to the Friends Trustees, a role that she has filled with her usual efficiency. One of Mary's most valuable contributions to the Friends has been the development of a system for producing computer-generated labels for the Growing Friends. This may sound simple and straightforward but involved much trial and some error resulting in a system that makes the work of the Growing Friends so much easier. In all her activities for the Friends, Mary has been a pleasure to work with: practical, not fussing and maintaining her sense of humour.

Mrs Pam Scott (elected 2005)

Pam Scott is one of those people who is very much "behind the scenes", quietly and diligently going about her various duties. She joined the Friends in 1992 and soon became a member of the Library Management Group. One of her first tasks was to look after the Lending Library but probably her greatest contribution to the Library, involving many months of work, was her participation in the audit of all the library books, checking every book against the computer entry making sure all was correct and checking that the book was actually physically in the Library. For many years from 1996, the various Treasurers of the Friends were

also very lucky in that they had Pam's assistance in doing the banking, sorting out all the cheques, organising and counting the floats for the rambles, workshops, Growing Friends and Wiri Rambler, and also doing the weekly banking. Pam's scrupulous attention to detail meant that the various Executives could relax knowing that the various monies were being handled properly and meticulously accounted for — very important in any voluntary society.

Mr Steve and Mrs Sri Benham (elected 2007)

We were all sad when Steve left the Botanic Gardens at the end of 2006 to take up a position in the United Kingdom and it was with some relief and much pleasure that we heard that he has returned to New Zealand, even if not to the Gardens. We hope to enjoy his and Sri's company for many years to come. Steve joined the Gardens in 1993 as Botanical Records Officer in charge of identifying and cataloguing the many thousands of plants in the Gardens and computerising the records. By the end of 1996, the database contained nearly 30,000 records with all the latest nomenclature and detailed information on each accession. It was impressive how he inspired a team of motivated volunteers mainly from the Friends to assist him with this job. Steve took an active interest in the conservation of native New Zealand plants, very important to the Gardens, but perhaps of greater impact on the Friends was his belief in the importance of public education, particularly on sustainability, and his involvement with Maori and Pacific Island groups. He can also claim much of the credit for much the Gardens' success in winning Gold Awards at the Ellerslie Flower Show. He was a frequent contributor to our newsletter and The Auckland Garden. Steve was a member of the professional Gardens staff and of the Friends. He contributed enormously to both during his time with us.

Sri also has been a major and popular contributor to both the Gardens and the Friends. As a competent artist she has encouraged our interest in various aspects of botanical art. Some of her cards were available for many years from the Visitor Centre and she was tutor to the Art Group. She was commissioned by the Friends to prepare illustrations of the Wiri hebes, she decorated the Wiri Rambler and she was responsible for the murals on the toilet walls which have a boldness very different from her other painstaking botanical work.

Mr Terry and Mrs Pam Hatch (elected 2007)

Terry Hatch is one of New Zealand's leading nurserymen and he has contributed greatly to horticulture and conservation. His family nursery, Joy Plants, has become a Mecca for serious Auckland gardeners with its wonderful range of alpine plants, perennials, ground covers and bulbs. There are always plants of interest and Terry is one of a sadly decreasing band, nurserymen who are dedicated plants men. He has brought many interesting plants to New Zealand, especially bulbs for which he has a passion, and he has bred many remarkable plants, being awarded the Plant Raisers' Award in 1992 for, amongst others, his "Pink Joy Butterfly" series of alstroemerias. He has also bred many nerines and hellebores. These days he is also becoming much more involved in conservation and the revegetation of off-shore islands.

Terry has been a great communicator with the public, regularly contributing articles and photographs to gardening magazines. He has co-authored several books and has appeared regularly on television gardening programs where he has proved to be a "natural". He has also been a staunch supporter of the Ellerslie Flower Show having received Gold Awards and the "Supreme Award for Horticultural Excellence".

Terry has been prominent in horticultural societies in New Zealand. He was a foundation member of the International Plant propagators' Society (IPPS) New Zealand Region, and in 2007 will assume the position of World President, one of the most prestigious horticultural positions achieved by a New Zealander. He has served with the Gardens Trust of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and was elected an Associate of Honour of the Institute in 2001. He and Pam have been members of the Friends for more than 20 years. Terry served on the Executive and was President from 2001-2003, a period of great progress in the Gardens, and he lobbied hard for the new Visitor Centre. Pam, who is very much the strong support behind the scenes, was acting treasurer of the Friends for a period and attended the Executive meetings in that capacity. Together they have contributed greatly to the Friends and to horticulture in general.

Mrs Bev McConnell (elected 2008)

Few have the resources to garden on the scale of Bev McConnell at 'Ayrilies'. This is a garden on a bold scale, much larger than most of us can ever dream of. Its importance, however, is not its size but the quality of the plantings and the design concepts used, its horticultural excellence. Bev has a great empathy for plants, and 'Ayrilies' is noted for the exuberance and boldness of the plantings, the courage with which she approached her plants and her plantings and the way in which she accepted challenges. 'Ayrilies' is the garden of a dedicated plants woman - it is a garden of international importance and serves as an inspiration to all of us.

As well as creating a great garden, Bev has been very generous in helping horticulture in general and the Botanic Gardens in particular. She was one of the instigators of the Trinity Garden Festival. She has been a staunch supporter of the Eilerslie Flower Show. She has been a board member of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and she is one of the senior assessors for the New Zealand Gardens Trust.

She has been a member of the Friends for many years and served a term as a Trustee and has been actively involved in preparing the landscape development plans for the Gardens. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of the activities of the Friends and also a generous donor, including the funding of the sculpture 'Manu Torino' by Fred Graham at the entrance to the visitor centre and the funding of the supreme award at the recent Stoneleigh Sculpture Exhibition. In 1998 she was elected an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture in recognition of her outstanding contributions to horticulture

Byrdie Ayres (elected 2009)

Byrdie Ayres is a true lover of nature and in recent years one of the most effective and passionate supporters of the Gardens. Since immigrating to New Zealand in 1969 Byrdie has worked on many environmental causes. Initially, she worked for a number of NGOs before joining the ARC in its planning department. From there Byrdie moved to the Department of Conservation where she was the manager of the strategic policy development section. Since leaving DoC after eleven years service Byrdie has worked as an environmental consultant, including sitting on hearing committees and assisting with applications for resource consents, marine reserves and exotic fish introductions. Byrdie joined the Friends Executive Committee in the late nineties and since then has been one of the most active and effective members of the Friends. Immediately she joined the Executive Byrdie was identified as a future President. She duly became Vice President in 2001 and then served as President from 2003 until 2005. During the term of her Presidency the Friends made a \$150,000 donation from their accumulated funds towards the construction of a new visitor centre. This substantial contribution was a clear demonstration of the strength of the Friends support and galvanised many others to support the project. The visitor centre project still required additional funding for artwork and displays, and it was in this area that Byrdie made an invaluable contribution. In response to funding applications coordinated by Byrdie the funding requirements were met in time for the opening of the building in April 2004. The Lottery Heritage and Environment committee made grants in excess of \$115,000 for displays, and the McConnell family, ASB Community Trust and Scottwood Trust contributed significant funding towards the two sculptures. During her Presidency the Lion Foundation contributed funding that enabled the Friends to purchase a new tractor to pull the Wiri Rambler. Byrdie also volunteered as a guide on this wonderful community service that makes the Gardens so accessible to our visitors. Byrdie was an inaugural member of the working party that set out to establish a major sculpture exhibition at the Gardens. During the early planning stages Byrdie attended meetings with various interested parties, and gave the project unwavering support. Ultimately this led to the hugely successful Stoneleigh Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition that ran for three months from November 2007. Byrdie was a member of the organising committee for this successful event and a strong advocate for the funding provided by the Friends. Without this initial financial support the exhibition is unlikely to have taken place. The fund raising campaign for this exhibition was so successful that the inaugural event was run without the need to approach Council for additional funding. Byrdie participated in the selection panel that chose Camp Site by Peter Lange as the artwork to be purchased by the Friends for permanent placement at the Gardens. When the decision was taken to attempt to secure the bronze sculpture Butterfly by Llew Summers to also remain at the Gardens, Byrdie was again at the forefront of the fundraising campaign. Byrdie supported the provision of seed funding from the Friends, and she then led a campaign that successfully raised the balance of required funding from various private sponsors and

community trusts. Byrdie continues to work tirelessly on projects associated with the Gardens including the next Stoneleigh Sculpture in the Gardens and raising funds for projects such as the Potter Children's Garden extension. Byrdie has been one of the most passionate and productive people that it has been my pleasure to work with. The success of the Gardens in recent years owes much to her dedication and professionalism, and she is a worthy Life Member of the Friends.

Doreen Briggs (elected 2009, died 2015)

Doreen is originally from Wanganui, and from a family who were always involved with rose growing, music, and arts. Her great grandfather, Joseph Annabell, was one of New Zealand's early portrait painters. Doreen trained at the Elam School of Art in 1941 for three years and qualified for her Preliminary Diploma of Fine Art. Going into commercial art, she became involved in making display models for shop windows over the next 4 years. She married in 1951 and during her time raising 3 children continued to pursue her love of music, by becoming involved in the Papatoetoe Light Opera Group, entering into many an Auckland competition, and giving singing recitals at radio station 1YA. When her youngest child was 18 she entered the work force as a sales manager, for a cosmetic company. As an avid gardener she often visited the then, new Auckland Botanic Gardens and was very impressed with Auckland's new development and soon joined the Friends organisation, and subsequently became involved in the newly formed Friends Painting Group, under the guidance of Sri Benham. Doreen found this, like going back to school, a new, and exciting learning curve, being able to paint flowers, which she really enjoyed. She still continues with her music, and along with the flower painting life became very full and enjoyable. Through the painting group Doreen made many new friends and gained lots of knowledge about the Auckland Botanic Gardens and growing plants for her own garden. When Sri Benham gave up as convener of the painting group, Doreen stepped into the role, full of enthusiasm. She loves being part of the painting exhibitions that are held at the Botanic Gardens each year, such as the Birthday Festivals and Soup Days. She also supports many fundraising projects. Her skill in getting all the painters organized for an exhibition is very apparent; sometimes the lead in time needed, would be 6 months. Then, during the exhibition Doreen would have the list of paintings, for display, plus the cost of the painting, plus the red dots that would mark a sale, all ready to give to the Visitor Centre staff. More recently, with the opening of the new visitors centre, the Painting Group has been asked to stage several major exhibitions in the gallery and as always Doreen would bring it all together, in her quiet efficient manner. The recent fund raising by the Friends was to invite members of the painting group to submit their paintings to be selected for the 2009 calendar. Doreen was very much involved in getting everyone together for the selection. The standard was very high and Doreen's painting was chosen for the front cover, something she is very proud of. Doreen continues with her involvement in the Friends Painting Group and has made a significant contribution to the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens over a long period of time and is a most worthy recipient for a life membership of the Friends.

Mary Colquhoun (elected 2009)

Regular attendees at Friends' Plant Group meetings will be well aware that Mary Colquhoun has green fingers – she always stole the show with her wonderfully colourful basket of flowers and foliage, all from her own garden. The beauty of the arrangements also demonstrated her skills as a florist. Mary grew up on her family's farm at Parawera on the Arapuni Main Highway, near Te Awamutu. Her father was a trained professional gardener from Yorkshire. Mary also spent time as a youngster at her Uncle's nursery, Batesons, which was on the site now occupied by the glasshouses at Hamilton Gardens, so her interest in plants has been life long. When Mary and her husband, Alex bought the family farm their first garden was vegetable one. Despite the demands of a young family, flowers soon followed with roses and delphiniums then later lilies being particular favorites. Mary joined or formed a number of garden clubs and societies. The list includes the Waikato Rose Society (mid 1950s), the South Auckland Camellia Society 1957 (it became the NZ Camellia Society in 1958), the Te Awamutu Rose Society (Founder 1958), the Parawera Garden Club (Founder 1962, of a club that now has 180 members) and the Waikato branch of the RNZIH, where she qualified as a general show judge in 1967 and became a Fellow in 1970. And this is just a small sample from the early days. The complete list makes impressive reading. Mary had her own Floristry Studio in Te Awamutu and gained her Certificate in Professional Floristry in 1981. In 1987 she and her husband retired from the farm and bought a property in half Moon Bay where Mary established another garden. She joined the Friends in 1990 after her husband's death and served a term on the committee. After John

Meyer retired from the Growing Friends, Mary and her good friend the late Bev Wade took over. Their collective plant knowledge and horticultural skills plus the huge amount of time they devoted to the group made a big impact. The big Spring and Autumn plant sales were started at this time and the amount and quality of plant material for sale in the covered courtyard was credit to them and their fellow volunteers. The Plant Group, established in 1991, was formed to give plant enthusiasts a chance to meet, hear a talk on a particular topic and to discuss and exchange plants from their own gardens. Mary Colquhoun was its Convenor for the last 5 years. Sadly, dwindling numbers saw the group wind up at the end of 2008. Mary's contribution to the group was significant. Her involvement with so many specialist societies and garden clubs, not to mention floristry, meant that she had a huge circle of fellow enthusiasts to call on to speak to the group and in recent years it was sad to see the membership decline when so much was offered. Mary's "CV" of her involvement with and contributions to the many societies and garden clubs over the years suggests that she not only has green fingers but chlorophyll in her veins. The Friends are fortunate that she has shared her expertise with so many members, especially during her time with the Growing Friends and Plant Group.

Trevor Davies (elected 2009)

Recognition of Trevor Davies as a life member of the Friends is long overdue. His significant contribution to the Gardens spans more than 30 years since his first involvement in the seventies. Trevor's contribution to horticulture has included more than 20 years on the Executive of the NZ Nurserymen's Association including serving a term as President. He also served a term on the New Plymouth City Council and in 1966 was President of Floral Festivals (Taranaki Inc.). In 1968, with George Rainey he organised and led a party of NZ nurserymen on a tour of California, and in 1980 hosted a group of American Nurserymen on a tour of NZ. Trevor was born in New Plymouth. His father Victor Davies, later Sir Victor, was the co-founder of the renowned Duncan and Davies nursery. Trevor studied for a Diploma of Horticultural Science at Massey College (as it was then) from 1944-46. After returning home from Massey in late 1946 he began working in the family company which had been owned by the Davies since 1942. In 1958 Trevor became Managing Director, a position he held until he resigned in 1975. In its heyday Duncan and Davies produced more than 100,000 camellias annually for the export market as well as many thousands of other plants. Trevor remembers sourcing a variegated *Rhododendron* 'President Roosevelt' from Melbourne Botanic Gardens that exceeded 100,000 in sales over 3 years to Japan alone. In 1975 the government bestowed a major export award on the Company. In 1976 he resigned from the family company and Trevor and Mary moved to Auckland. Trevor was contracted to Zealandia Nursery Co. for two years. Following this he began researching the Genus *Wisteria*. Trevor was later joined by George Smith, an ex employee of Duncan and Davies (for 40 years) and together they established extensive trial beds containing more than 40 clones. They realised the main problem with wisterias was the practice of grafting onto seedling root stocks which often took over the scion. The challenge became to grow a top grade plant on its own roots. They collected every available *Wisteria* clone in both NZ and many other countries, eventually assembling around 40 different named clones although some of these proved to be duplicates as many of those collected were incorrectly named. Soon after Trevor arrived in Auckland in 1976 Sue Davison and Sheila Weight 'twisted his arm' to get involved in the Friends of the new Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. Trevor later became Vice-President before succeeding Sheila as the fourth President of the Friends in 1989. A major achievement during Trevor's term as President was the proposal for the development of library facilities, and the commencement of fundraising for this project. Other initiatives included re-formatting of the Friends newsletter, some changes to the constitution and input into the Botanic Gardens development plan. Trevor was invited to join the Shrub Evaluation Panel in about 1990, chaired by the late George Rainey. Trevor remembers the two of them working well together. He also remembers some memorable social occasions, and Jean Veal and Joan Dingley sparring over many subjects. Trevor was also chair of the Trustees for a term. Trevor remains involved with the Gardens as Chairman the Shrub Evaluation Panel. Trevor has had a long and distinguished involvement with the Gardens and he is a most worthy recipient of life membership of the Friends.

Mrs Liz Powell (elected 2010)

The Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens are indeed fortunate in those who have served as President of their Executive. Our Presidents have varied greatly in their backgrounds, their interests and in the particular contributions they have made but they have all been committed to the Gardens and they have all sought to

share with others the pleasure they get from plants and from gardening. Together with the Executives they have led, they have done so much to improve and develop the Gardens. Liz Powell is the most recent of our Presidents to be formally acknowledged for her work and it is fitting that she be now nominated for Life Membership of the Friends because, in the words of our constitution, Life Membership is bestowed on those who "have given service to the Gardens over a period". This is a rather dry and inadequate description of all that Liz has done for us and for the Gardens. She is a fanatical gardener in her own right. I think fanatical is the appropriate word as only days after her recent operation she was in her garden on crutches deadheading the roses. She is an enthusiastic but not unthinking gardener and it is typical of her that she has taken a number of extension horticultural papers from Massey University to increase her knowledge and understanding of plants and their requirements, of soils, of landscaping, and the therapeutic benefits of gardening. She is particularly fond of scented roses and her association with the Auckland Gardens began with her attending a ramble demonstrating the pruning of roses. She joined the Friends and in 2000 was then headhunted for the Friends Executive. Since then she has been involved in many of our activities including serving on the Library Committee, organising the catering of many functions, arranging bus trips, fostering the visiting artist project and participating as a keen member of the Painting Group. She was President in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and remains a member of the Friends Executive. As President, Liz led by example: she is well organised, focussed and meticulous, determined and sees things through to completion. She is not scared of hard work; she leads from in front, not from behind. And it is characteristic of her that she undervalues her own contributions and that she generously acknowledges and praises the work of others, of members of the Friends Executive or of individual members of the Gardens staff. Three particular achievements during her term in office come to mind:

- the very successful silver jubilee of the Friends;
- the preparation and publication of the history of the Friends' first 25 years which reminds us of many personal friendships and serves as a permanent record of what the Friends have done for the Gardens;
- the very successful Stoneleigh sculpture exhibitions which have brought so many new and different people to the Gardens.

Perhaps most important, Liz has maintained and strengthened the very good relations and cooperation that exist between the Friends and the professional staff at the Gardens. Together, we have achieved so much.

Roger Price (elected 2010)

Roger retires this week after 28 years of service to both the Gardens and the Friends. Although we both began our association with the Botanic Gardens in 1982 it was not until a decade later that we formed a working relationship. In the mid 1990s Roger was very much a one-man band supported by a group of volunteers from the Friends. His duties included managing the Visitor Centre and the Friends Horticultural Reference Library, chairing the library management committee, teaching school groups, publishing the Advisory Leaflets, maintaining the photograph collection, organising the Sunday rambles, arranging the seasonal display in the foyer, guiding tour groups, maintaining an archival record and undoubtedly a hundred and one other tasks I was completely unaware of. At times in the Visitor Centre it could be chaotic with a queue at the counter wanting to purchase souvenirs, book weddings, book the hire facilities, or obtain advice whilst at the same time trying to help the almost daily caller on the phone with the latest botanical clue in his crossword puzzle. Roger's obvious skill at multi-tasking and management of his pool of volunteers from the Friends meant that we got through the heavy work-load with minimal fuss and error. His flair for design and floral arrangement has also been invaluable to the Gardens in the staging of displays and also our participation in the Ellerslie Flower Show where Roger's efforts resulted in consistent top awards. However I believe that his major legacy will be the Potter Children's Garden. Roger was given the brief for this project and oversaw the creation of one of our best and most popular attractions, and it was fitting that this feature should be opened by HRH The Prince of Wales. Roger is undoubtedly a very worthy nominee for Life Membership of our society.

Eleanor Lane (elected 2011)

When I received an email from Graeme Hauer earlier this year asking me if I would be willing to write and present this citation to Eleanor my immediate reaction was how wondrous that Eleanor's dedication and

passion for the Botanic Gardens over the last 14 years has been recognised by this prodigious support group - Friends of Auckland Botanic Gardens. I had the supreme good fortune to get to know Eleanor during my tenure here as Botanical Records / Conservation Officer. Faithfully Eleanor arrived from her home in Point Chevalier every Wednesday and worked alongside me for 6 hours over 12 years. Wednesdays was my favourite day of the week as I looked forward to Eleanor's arrival. Always cheerful, always passionate, always sharing stories, knowledge and always willing to tackle any job from computer entry to crawling on all fours looking for plant accession tags during our summer plant census forays! More about that later, as I would like to take you back in time to Otorohanga where Eleanor was born – I won't divulge the year but Eleanor was the youngest of eight sisters and brothers. Father was a teacher and within a few weeks they were on the move to Aramatai and to a new teaching post at Piopio High School, west of Te Kuiti. I remember Eleanor telling about the dangers of growing up in limestone country and all the caves and holes one could fall into whilst out on playful adventures. I believe this is where your love of plants and your career path as a dietitian started, Eleanor. At the tender age of 5 or was it 6 your mother had ordered some bulbs from a mail order company and they were lovingly planted. Later on you heard your mother remark that the bulbs needed feeding. You promptly dug them up, sliced them open and pasted the insides with Vegemite or was it honey? I am relieved to hear that you decided to take up Home Science instead of horticulture! The next move was to the Far North, settling in to Umawera, south of Kaitaia where father became Headmaster of the district school. At 9 years old you all moved to Masterton where you attended St. Mathews College for girls. Eleanor's career started at Otago University in the Home Science Faculty by way of a diploma in Home Science followed by Dietetics traineeship in Auckland. The big wide world beckoned. Eleanor decided to make the frozen north home for 2 years. After Sweden where she attended an International Dietetics Congress, there was a further time in England working as a dietician and then she travelled through Europe before returning to New Zealand. These were the leisurely days of sea travel when one had a chance to acclimatise instead of being flung from one side of the world to the other in 24 hours! Settling in Nelson Eleanor became a Dietitian at Nelson Public Hospital. It was in Nelson where Eleanor met her future husband Dick who had recently transferred to the Post Office there. Moving to Auckland, Eleanor started working for the Department of Agriculture as a Home Science Advisor, where she was an advisor to farming community women, giving talks to Country Women's Institute, Maori Affairs Dept., farmers wives etcetera on all practical issues like dietary requirements, establishing kitchens, budgeting. This job involved travelling from the Far North to Opotiki in the east or New Plymouth in the west. Over time, Eleanor and Dick were blessed with 3 children, Michael, Emily, and Peter. Eleanor is a master at pickling and making preserves ranging from her decadent winter chutney to her sumptuous quince jelly. Do you remember Eleanor when we went harvesting quinces from the herb garden? At the annual Gardens Birthday Festival Eleanor's fund raising stall is always laden with jars filled with yummy delights. You must have slaved over a hot stove for weeks on end? I believe this admirable tradition of preserving goes back to your parents' day when bottling home grown produce was part of family life. With your children having left home and bottling still part of your summer tradition you were left with a surplus, and hence the sales at the Festivals to fundraise for the Gardens. Eleanor has also been a long serving member of the Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild – dying and spinning wools, weaving, knitting and felting. Your hats you wear are legendary Eleanor, a wearable botanic garden! Heaps of homemade cushions also accompanied the sales table of preserves! Eleanor and Dick regularly took parties of youngsters including Point Chevalier Girls Scout Group away on summer camps and often took into their home in Riro Street overseas students. They both thought nothing of tearing off down the motorway to the airport at 11 o'clock at night to meet a youngster from South America or Taiwan. Eleanor is a regular church attendee and when the local church became a local shared ministry church with no residing vicar it was decided by the congregation that Eleanor should train to become a Priest. Four years ago Eleanor was ordained as a Deacon and for the past two years a Priest – The Reverend Eleanor Lane. On the plant records Eleanor must have volunteered every Wednesday for 12 years. Data entry of plant accessions into the plants database almost totalled 30,000 by the time I left in 2006 which also saw Eleanor bowing out graciously at the same time. When I come to think of it I must have been a frightful slave driver but Eleanor drove herself hard by trying to beat her record for the number of accessions she could enter in her 6 hour day without nodding-off! Who wouldn't nod-off, as data entry is a rather tedious task! Occasionally Eleanor would cry out with horror when the wrong keys were punched and the database disappeared, thinking that it was lost forever into the ether! (Steve would cry out with horror too!!!). After many years of data entry Eleanor became a

dab hand at knowing what family a plant species belonged to and we often tested each other. In the summer we were busy crawling under bushes; goodness knows what the visitors thought! Actually we were looking for plant accession tags as part of the great stock-take matching plants in the ground with those on the database. Eleanor has much patience because we spent many hours dabbing an artists paintbrush into methylated spirits to control mealy bug on the Maori potatoes. The nursery staff became quite curious as to what we were up to in the glasshouse! When the Gardens displayed the collection of Maori potatoes in the Visitor Centre we had Bill and Ben with forks and spade in hand, all made out of recycled clothes by our very own Eleanor. Eleanor is always thinking of other people and loved to take home surplus plants from the nursery to give to the gardener at Western Springs College. Eleanor's involvement in the Gardens changed direction after I left. She decided that after all those years of computer work it was time to help the outdoors staff. Paula who curates the Rose Collection found Eleanor an absolute blessing when it came to dead-heading. Intrepid was the word Paula used when it came to dead-heading the large blousy hibiscus shrubs which grow along the pond margins. And for the last 3 and half years Nicky who curates the herb, salvia and edibles said to me only this week that she couldn't manage without Eleanor's help. Eleanor calls her Monday with Nicky her Sabbath. Pulling out unwanted seedlings in the herb garden was very difficult for Eleanor but now I believe you are quite ruthless under Nicky's tuition! Eleanor is very gregarious, getting along with all the garden staff, young and not so young, sharing stories of her tramping holidays. Most recently there was a trip to Rakiura / Stewart Island where Eleanor and Dick stayed at the Oban backpackers and which had a fence covered in roses which were in need of dead-heading. You have guessed it already! Eleanor borrowed a pair of scissors and set to work! Eleanor is a wonderful ambassador for the Gardens, only the other week she was guest at a wedding here and was busy telling everyone about the Gardens. Eleanor, there are so many adjectives to describe your personality: vivacious, generous, dignified, humble and so on and on. You are one amazing lady Eleanor, a living legend and a most worthy recipient of this Honorary Life Membership Award. This Award is a token of appreciation from the Friends of Auckland Botanic Gardens for all the hard work, dedication and generosity that you have freely given over the past 14 years helping to make the Gardens one of the finest, if not the finest Botanic Garden in New Zealand.

Bill Burrill (elected 2011)

Bill Burrill was born 20 January 1942 in Wiri where he grew up in Redoubt Rd. He now lives with his wife Maggie (already a Life Member of the Friends) on Northridge Estate in Flatbush where Bill once dairy farmed and these days grazes dairy heifers and horses. They are keenly interested in their families and their six grandchildren in Auckland and London.

From the mid eighties until 1993 he ran a 'pick your own vegetable' business on leased land near the great South Road. His first foray into politics was when he was elected to the Town Milk Producers Committee in the eighties. Bill was first elected to the Auckland Regional Council in October 1992 when Phil Warren was the chair at the time. Bill was appointed deputy chair of the Finance Committee. However he quickly became very interested in parks and in 1995 he was appointed Chair of the Regional Parks network. He went on to serve three terms as Chair from 1995 – 2004.

When Bill was appointed Chair of Parks his wife Maggie was President of the Friends. Bill comments that he is the only Chair of Parks Committee to sleep with the President of the Friends! He was actively involved in the Botanic Gardens Development Plan process in 1997 that eventually culminated in many significant developments at the Gardens. It also clarified the Gardens' roles in education and conservation. These included the ill fated noise barrier alongside the Southern Motorway. Throughout this difficult period Bill remained consistently supportive. This was hugely appreciated by me and my staff at the time. Another more positive outcome was the construction and opening of our Visitor Centre 'Huakaiwaka' in 2005. Bill was an ardent supporter of this project over a prolonged period despite opposition from other influential politicians of the time.

Bill gives credit to Gwen Bull whom as Chair of the Regional Council contributed to significant changes in the culture in Parks. Gwen also supported the Visitor Centre project alongside Bill. Bill went on to act as Chair of the Auckland Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2001 subcommittee. This management plan further articulated the Gardens vision and objectives, and it has been the cornerstone of the recent growth of the Gardens. He was also a driving force behind the transfer of Ellerslie Flower Show to the Gardens in 1997, working closely with Rob Small, General Manager of Regional Parks at the time.

Bill also initiated discussion with the Auckland Lodge to develop a children's garden at the Gardens. In particular he spoke with Joe McManeman, the outcome being the opening of the Potter Children's Garden in March 2005. Other highlights included the purchase of Waitawa Regional Park and Scandrett Regional Park. The successful 'Learning through Experience' school education programmes also commenced during Bill's term as Chair of Parks.

When Bill first became chair of Regional Parks Committee he realised the priority of purchasing new land for the network had been at the expense of maintenance of existing assets such as the track network in the Waitakeres. He successfully initiated a refocus on improving the presentation of assets to the public. Another major achievement was commencing the process to have one 'network' management plan for all Regional Parks rather than the previous multiplicity of management plans. This led to many efficiencies and consistency throughout the network. The new eastern grandstand was also constructed at Mount Smart Regional Park during Bill's tenure as Chair of the network.

More recently Bill was a member of the Master Plan Advisory Committee that set the vision and direction of the Gardens for many years to come. This plan was adopted by ARC in March 2010.

Over the years I have come to regard Bill as a visionary and dedicated man who steadfastly pursues his ideals, supports others along the way and always has the communities' best interests at heart. He has made a huge contribution to the people and environment of Auckland, and the Gardens would not be the success it is without his sustained interest and support.

Pat Shaddick (elected 2012)

Pat has been a member of the Friends since 2002 and on joining immediately put her hands to work. She volunteers for the Growing Friends, as a driver for the Wiri Rambler and also puts her hand up regularly to assist the staff with events and behind the scenes work. Pat and her husband Fred lived in Harrow, London for many years where she kept an active life involving herself in the community socially and through the many sports she enjoyed. Pat even turned her hand to props management for a Gilbert and Sullivan society and used her creative skills to service the many shows. She regularly pulls out her sewing skills creating items for the growing friends. Although Pat's main background was as a secretary she has held many positions since, which have always had a public interface such as home assistance, hospital based work and as an ambulance officer. Pat notes her passion for gardening came when her two boys had grown up and stopped using her garden as a football pitch. She had a colourful ornamental home garden with dahlias being her favourite. Pat also had an allotment for 8 years where she grew mainly soft fruits.

After their youngest son moved to New Zealand in the 90's, Fred and Pat emigrated in February 2002. Initially they rented a house in Papatoetoe until Pat persuaded Fred that they needed to be near the Gardens where they bought their home 6 months later in Norm Pellow Drive. No sooner had they moved in Pat and Fred walked in to the old Visitor Centre and offered their services as volunteers. Immediately taken under the guidance of Brian Herbert and the Wiri Rambler team they were regularly seen driving visitors around the gardens. Putting their passion for gardening to work they also volunteered in the nursery and sold plants from the trolley located outside the old visitor centre. Unfortunately Fred became ill and was unable to work and Pat put her volunteering activities on hold until late 2005. She again rejoined the Wiri Rambler and Growing Friends. If you visit the Growing team today you will find Pat busy potting succulents and tackling all gardening tasks with zest and most of all, good humour. As well as working with other volunteers Pat involves herself with many jobs behind the scenes. Most recently she collated all the demographic information and public voting for the Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition and People's Choice Award – I can assure you that was no mean feat with over 5000 visitor votes. With Pat's love of the Gardens I asked her to name her favourite place but she couldn't because for Pat, they all provide enjoyment through the seasons. Pat is a truly remarkable ambassador for the Gardens ensuring she takes every opportunity to promote us wherever she goes and to whom ever she meets. It is this dedication that led the Friends executive to offer Pat life membership in thanks for all her work.

Neville Haydon (elected 2013)

Neville Haydon is one of New Zealand's most distinguished horticulturists. For many years he was an eminent specialist nurseryman who added greatly to our understanding and use of the genus *Camellia*. His

former business, 'Camellia Haven', provided a fine array of cultivars and species to gardeners around the country. He was honoured by the New Zealand Camellia Society by being appointed an Honorary Life Member and he is now Patron of the Society in recognition of his efforts in encouraging a love of camellias amongst New Zealand gardeners. He has been a long standing member of the Society's research arm, The Camellia Memorial Trust, and continues to act as a Trustee. The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture recognised him in 1991 with the Plant Raisers' Award for the Camellia cultivars he produced from his breeding programmes. Ones he developed include popular cultivars as such as 'Peggy Burton', 'Baby Bear' and 'Takanini'. Through his breeding work he demonstrated great originality, especially by placing emphasis on plant form rather than just selecting for superior flowers. In 2006 he became an Associate of Honour of the Institute in recognition of his contribution to the appreciation of camellias in this country. He has also served the Institute as Honorary Treasurer of both the RNZIH NZ Gardens Trust and the RNZIH Education Trust. He became an inaugural member of the International Camellia Society when it first formed in 1962, just over 50 years ago. He has attended many of its conferences presenting research papers. He has made a major contribution to that Society, particularly over the past 13 years, having acted as their Treasurer, International Registrar and as Chair of the Otomo Fund which supports research work. He recently completed the huge task of converting the International Camellia Register to digital form, making it ready for a Web publication which is now nearing 600,000 visits after only 5 years. His standing internationally was recognized when he was awarded one of the first two President's Medals in 2010 by the International Camellia Society for his services to camellias worldwide. Today, however, we honour him for his contributions to the Auckland Botanic Gardens and to our society over the past 25 years. His contributions have been in two main areas. He was the leading figure in the establishment of the Camellia Garden, and in recent years he has acted as a most able treasurer of the Friends. The Camellia Garden is one of our most important collections, as acknowledged last year when it was formally recognized by the International Camellia Society as a Garden of Excellence. The Camellia Garden now contains 62 species and 487 cultivars. It is one of the most popular of all our gardens, especially from autumn until late spring when peak flowering takes place. Neville became involved with the Camellia Garden when it was started in 1987. The original aim was to display comprehensive collections of Camellia species and hybrids based on the small-leaved species, and representative collections of *C. japonica* and *C. reticulata* cultivars were also planted. The main criterion for selecting particular cultivars was garden performance under Auckland conditions, with Neville being the main advisor as to which cultivars would likely perform best. He advised on the layout and content of the garden, and he was the main supplier of plants. He has remained involved ever since, continuing to supply plants including many rare Camellia species, and providing invaluable information to the staff responsible for managing this collection. He also contributed his expertise to the advisory leaflets on camellias that are available from the Visitors' Centre and also from the Botanic Gardens website. These advise on cultural practices and recommend those camellias that have proved most suitable for growing in Auckland. Neville also donated to the Botanic Gardens a copy of the *Chinka Zufu* - the Imperial Japanese Collection of Camellias. This valuable book is held in our Library. Neville became Treasurer of the Friends in 2005 and since then he has undertaken this role most effectively and with great dedication. Thanks to his professional training as an accountant, the Friends' finances are now presented with clarity and accuracy, enabling the Friends Executive to make informed decisions on all financial transactions and budget planning. He has also been a most astute investor of the Friends' funds, ensuring that maximum returns are received on all investments. Neville Haydon has provided distinguished service to the Friends over many decades through his service as treasurer and by his contributions to our specialist collections and horticultural knowledge. He is a most worthy, indeed long overdue, Life Member of our society.

The citations from 2014 onwards can be viewed in the Newsletters in the Members section of this website.



Life members and former Presidents
Liz Powell, Terry Becher and Bill Burrill
AGM 2016



Former President and
Life Member
Graeme Hauer



Former Treasurer and
Life Member
Neville Haydon



Executive Committee for 2016