



Acer Platanoides Crimson King

NZ Garden Trust Emails November 2017

What an amazing spring after three years of severe drought in this part of the world. All the trees and shrubs look replenished and happy again! Now once more we are heading into drier times, with summer fast approaching. It is my least favourite season, any other season is more interesting to me.

The purpose of this email is to remind you all of the dates for the next conference in Taranaki.

Jenny Oakley has included the following brief for your immediate attention

NZGT Annual Conference Taranaki 2018 Taranaki- the garden of New Zealand

Taranaki is proud to host the next NZGT Conference in April 2018.

It's been about 10 years since the inaugural Conference which was held in Taranaki so it is indeed timely to welcome you back.

Taranaki has been known as the 'Garden of New Zealand' since the 1840's and it is appropriate that this legacy continues through the theme of our autumn gathering. Gardening is part of our culture.

This is an exciting opportunity for us to share our public and private gardens that are part of the NZGT family

The region is famous for its rhododendrons and spring gardens but this event will illustrate that we have much more to offer than the traditional spring experience.

We'll broadly cover the spectrum of genres and styles, formal and informal, native and exotic and everything in between.

Within the program we also have arrange of Taranaki speakers that will cover subjects from garden history, garden tourism, plants and design.

This is also the time when we get together and share these experiences, enjoy the fellowship and learn from each other.

*Please mark the **13th to the 15th of April** in your calendar and we look forward to hosting you and sharing our gardens.*

From the Taranaki organizing committee

***Jenny Oakley, Greg Rine, Jennifer Horner
& Clare Mewse***

Assessing Time

It has been assessing time and the following is to give you all some idea of the people who are assessing your gardens. I won't be able to include them all in this email but will add others as they come to hand. They have asked to write a little spiel about themselves for you all to gain some idea of their backgrounds

The assessors are Jan Woolhouse, Kerei Thompson, Rob Watson, Renee Davies, Dylan Norfield, and Karen Lowther

Jan Woodhouse is in charge of all the assessors. At present there are six assessors but we are looking for 2 more. We need one from the South Island preferably one that has real plant knowledge, so if you have a suggestion please let one of the Trustees know.

My name is Jan Woodhouse. I am a qualified Landscape Architect and I practise mainly in the area of project based landscape assessment and revegetation. However, my initial experience and qualifications were in horticulture and I retain a passion for growing plants.

I became an assessor for the Trust at the behest of Bev McConnell after working with her first on developing the judging criteria and later on the judging panel for the Ellerslie Flower show when it started in Auckland.

I had previously worked as a tutor at Lincoln and I had also run the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects awards so had some experience in evaluating why landscapes work or do not.

I have since visited most of the Trust gardens over the years and look forward to our assessment week each year. I also regard the assessment role as a privilege and the garden visits as food for the soul. Thankyou Garden owners.

'In all things of nature there is something marvellous'
Aristotle

Jan Woodhouse FNZILA

Rosy days.

Just when I thought my 'rosy' days were over I spied *R 'Hayley Westenra'* in the Acacia Bay garden centre here in Taupo. Who could resist such a frilly pink concoction? I couldn't, so now I have to find room for her in my already over-crowded ¼ acre lake-side section.

I am not even in to hybrid teas any more. In my early days they were what everyone grew until Nancy Steen gave us a shot in the proverbial bottom. So now I like *R. mutabilis* and oldies like '*Buff Beauty*' and the Tea rose, '*General Gallieni*'. In flower, these are hard to beat and don't require much maintenance apart from an occasional winter tidy up.

Beverley McConnell gave me a plant of a miniature seedling (she thought,) of '*Buff beauty*' that I admired in her garden. But here on my pumice ridden soil it has reached a very pretty adolescence and is almost 2m. tall; nameless, but I call it 'Ayrlies' and delight in its small and highly doubled, pale apricot coloured flowers. Bev always laughs when she tells me I am colour blind; I am, but I am sure it isn't pink!

No rose chat would be complete without mentioning the incomparable 'Sally Holmes'. Even though an errant possum trimmed up all the first growth on my bush, she has sprung back peeping through my kitchen window with more flowers than ever. What a rose.

Gordon Collier

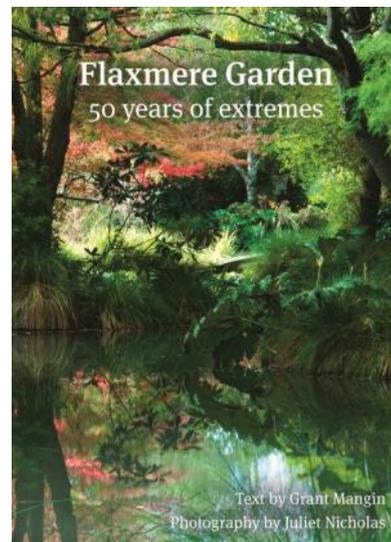
Flaxmere Garden 50 years of extremes

Text written by Grant Mangin

Photographs by Juliet Nicholas

This book is available through the website
www.flaxmeregarden.co.nz

It is a smallish compact little book easy to fit into any handbag! A great Christmas present priced at \$45.00 postage and packing included.



I will be in touch again before Christmas with news of the AGM and trustees meeting in Auckland next week, in the meantime mark in your diaries the dates of the next conference. **April 13 –15 2018 in Taranaki.**

For the Trustees

Penny Zino